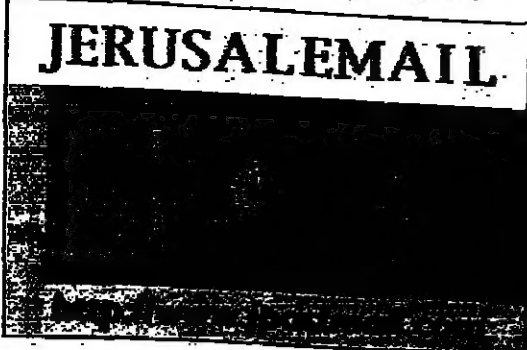


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First Arab named to Supreme Court

By DAN IZENBERG

Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi yesterday announced the first appointment of an Arab to the Supreme Court.

Ariel was just given a one-year temporary appointment to replace Justice Eliezer Goldberg, who is expected to be elected state comptroller by the Knesset on May 26.

Hanegbi also announced that Tel Aviv District Court President Menahem Ilan has been given a temporary appointment to replace Justice Yoseph Goldberg.

Zuabi is a member of the public council of the Abraham Fund, a non-partisan organization promoting Jewish-Arab coexistence.

Permanent appointments to the Supreme Court are made by the special committee to appoint judges.



Judge Abdel Rahman Zuabi

Hizbullah wounds 2 soldiers at border

By DAVID RUDGE

Two IDF soldiers were wounded last night when mortar rounds hit an outpost on the northern border, with some exploding in the Upper Galilee.

There were no civilian casualties and there were no reports of any shells hitting close to Galilee communities. Nevertheless, some residents decided to spend the night in bomb shelters and security rooms.

Hizbullah claimed responsibility for the attacks, saying they were a warning against IDF and South Lebanese Army firing into civilian areas north of the zone.

The shooting started around 7:15 p.m. with mortars being fired at two IDF positions - one in Western Galilee and the other in the hills overlooking Kiryat Shmona.

Reports said some rounds scored direct hits on the Upper Galilee outpost. Two soldiers were wounded, one moderately and the other lightly. They were taken to Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

The soldiers were in a command car travelling alongside the border fence, on the Israeli side, when mortar two rounds exploded within a few meters of their vehicle. They were both hit by fragments.

The command car itself was damaged and rolled down an embankment, but did not overturn.

The attacks were believed to be in response to an earlier incident in which two Lebanese civilians were reportedly wounded by SLA shelling of Tibnit village, north of the security zone. AP reported that one was a seven-year-old girl.

The shelling occurred during exchanges in the region after mortar fire on a SLA post inside the security zone, apparently originating in the vicinity of Tibnit.

During the later bombardments, Hizbullah also fired mortars and Katyusha rockets at SLA positions in the zone and the IDF outposts along the border.

The attacks on the border outposts follow a number of other recent incidents in which Lebanese civilians have been wounded as a result of IDF or SLA shelling.

Three people were hurt near Mmsuri village, north of the zone, last Friday. The Grapes of Wrath monitoring group is to convene today at UNRIL's headquarters in Nakoura to discuss a complaint by Lebanon over that incident.

See SOLDIERS Page 3



Labor Party leader Ehud Barak (center) - accompanied by 12th graders - submits a bill calling for the draft of haredi yeshiva students to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon.

Barak submits bill for drafting yeshiva students

By LIAT COLLINS

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak, amid much media attention, yesterday submitted his first private member's bill - calling for the draft of haredi yeshiva students.

Barak, accompanied by several 12th graders who are about to be inducted, submitted the bill entitled "One People, One Draft" to Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon.

The bill would reduce the number of exemptions and deferments for yeshiva students and put the deferments at the discretion of the military establishment and a joint Knesset panel rather than the defense minister.

"This is a very important bill," he said. "It would also help the haredim escape the cycle of poverty by allowing them to enter the work force."

Barak called on Tichon to join him in signing the bill, which was largely prepared by Labor MKs Yossi Beilin and Nissim Zivili.

He said the panel Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is

creating to examine the draft issue is "throwing sand in the public's eyes."

"I call on the prime minister, who was himself a soldier and knows the reality, to join the bill, along with all coalition MKs," Barak said.

Tichon called the issue one "of the utmost importance," but suggested that the bill had little chance of passing and that Barak should consider a different approach.

Tichon noted the bill, like any other, could only be raised 45 days after it is submitted. He also pointed out that, under the Knesset House Rules, if a bill fails, no similar or identical one can be raised for six months, excluding recess periods.

A bill calling for the mass draft of haredim prepared by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg failed at the end of March, just before the spring recess. "I'm sure there is a

measure of similarity between the bills," Tichon said.

He said the Knesset legal advisers would examine the bill to see whether it requires the six-month wait.

If Barak does not agree with the decision, he can appeal to the House Committee, although that is chaired by Raphael Pinhasi (Shas), who does not favor the bill.

Barak said he has a legal opinion showing the difference between his bill and the one submitted by Zandberg.

Barak denied he was motivated by the current crisis in secular-haredi relations and said he had begun work on the bill months ago.

One of the five youths who accompanied Barak, Yaniv Zagor of Beersheba, said he feels haredim should serve in the army just as the national religious serve.

"The army meets needs of kashrut and prayer times and other religious requirements," he said. "There is no reason they should not serve. The burden

shouldn't fall just on our shoulders."

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom said Barak's bill does not offer a solution and said the Defense Ministry is preparing a pilot project of a form of Nahal service for haredim.

He said that although the haredi community is not openly saying it, it recognizes the need to act on this issue both from a social viewpoint and because not all haredim are suited to be full-time yeshiva students.

Shalom warned, however, about making political capital out of the subject.

As Barak left Tichon's office, Zandberg arrived to resubmit his bill. "It's worth remembering that this bill, which I brought up in this Knesset and the previous one, failed largely because of the lack of support by Labor MKs," Zandberg said.

Meretz's Ran Cohen said he would resubmit within a month his bill, which failed last December, that would allow only 400 exemptions for yeshiva students.

PM to meet Albright tomorrow

Netanyahu advances US trip

By JAY BUSHNISKY and NELLE KUTTLER

The invitation extended yesterday by US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to meet her in Washington tomorrow intensified the diplomatic effort to arrange an Israeli-Palestinian summit under President Bill Clinton's aegis later this month.

The invitation came during a telephone conversation between Netanyahu and Albright, who had called to try to overcome the remaining gaps between the Israeli and US-Palestinian positions on the depth of the IDF's next pull-back in the West Bank.

She was also due to speak yesterday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, the State Department said.

Clinton announced the invitation after being briefed by special envoy Dennis Ross, who had just returned from Israel, and Albright and National Security Adviser Sandy Berger.

The meeting between Albright and Netanyahu will attempt "to overcome the remaining differences so that we can proceed immediately with accelerated permanent-status talks," Clinton said.

"Secretary Albright will then report to me whether, as a result of her discussions with the prime minister, the basis exists to launch those talks in Washington."

The president is scheduled to leave today for Germany and Great Britain, and will not be in town during Netanyahu's visit. Albright is delaying her departure to meet with Netanyahu.

Netanyahu and his entourage promptly revised their travel plans, advancing their takeoff time from Thursday afternoon to 1 a.m. tomorrow.

"I am sure that with the requisite effort we will be able to advance toward peace," Netanyahu said in a Channel 2 interview.

Anticipating a summit conference "in the next few weeks," he said its premise must be "agreement" between the parties.

The frenzy of diplomatic activity that preceded the latest Netanyahu-Albright conversation evidently upset Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon. He instructed his office to issue a statement criticizing the manner in which the current diplomatic contacts are being conducted behind the cabinet's back.

The statement said Sharon views the attempt to develop "creative ideas" - a term used by Netanyahu - while casting "a fog" over them.

at the ministerial level as a "grave and worrisome situation."

It charged that an attempt was being made to implement a 13 percent redeployment, and contended that "hints to that effect have been conveyed to the Americans."

Sharon was said to be holding to the view that a withdrawal that exceeded 9 percent threatens national security.

Sharon denied an Israel Radio report that in an effort to soften Sharon's position on the pullback, he has been offered the choice of heading the final-status talks team or being appointed foreign minister.

A senior government source denied that the original purpose of Netanyahu's trip to the US was to rally support there for his position, and stressed that his scheduled appearances before AIPAC and the American Jewish Committee and the plan to review the Salute to Israel parade in New York were arranged long ago.

However, the aide conceded that Netanyahu would "address the issues" in his various speeches and media interviews.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said it would be "reasonable" for Netanyahu to make his case to the American people, but that the situation should not be viewed as "us versus them."

Clinton is determined to "exhaust every possible avenue" to advance the peace process and is "not accepting no for an answer," McCurry said.

Netanyahu will spend almost the entire day Thursday meeting with Congressional leaders before addressing an American Jewish Committee dinner.

Albright spoke with the leadership of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations yesterday, and indicated she is upbeat about the prospects for tomorrow's meeting and would try to bridge the differences, according to conference executive vice chairman Malcolm Hoelen.

Albright's spokesman James Rubin said the US is still proceeding on the basis of her determination that US ideas are the basis for further progress and will not be diluted.

"The belief is that there are some positive elements to explore in these discussions on Wednesday, to see whether we can make the breakthrough that we need" to move to final-status talks, "consistent with the ideas we've put down for some time now," he said.

See ALBRIGHT, Page 2

Gov't recognizes Pollard as its spy

By JAY BUSHNISKY

After more than a decade of denials, the government yesterday officially recognized

Jonathan Pollard as an Israeli agent.

"According to the recommendation of the professional team headed by Cabinet Secretary Dan Naveh, the state has declared that Jonathan Pollard served as an Israeli agent who was directed by persons who held senior positions in the Scientific Liaison Office [a clandestine official unit generally known by its Hebrew acronym, Lakam], according to an official communiqué issued by the Prime Minister's Bureau."

See POLLARD, Page 2

Currency reform takes effect Thursday

By DAVID HARRIS

The liberalization of the currency exchange rules will take effect on Thursday, the Bank of Israel announced yesterday.

In a brief statement, the central bank said that from this weekend all foreign currency transactions will be permitted, with just a few exceptions concerning institutional investors and forwards contracts for foreigners which extend beyond a month.

The Justice Ministry yesterday gave its approval to the program, according to the bank.

The ministry's approval was essentially the last stage ahead of the publication of a "general permit," which will enable the pro-

gram to be put into action.

Initially, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman said he expected the permit to be ready last week, but a senior central bank official said that preparation of the documentation took longer than expected.

The liberalization - declared two weeks ago by Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, Neeman, and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel - is the culmination of a process which began some years ago but gathered speed last August, when the cabinet agreed to press ahead to reach the present stage. The program includes:

• Allowing residents to freely invest overseas, including in real estate.

• Permitting citizens and companies to have bank accounts abroad in shekels or foreign currency.

• Removing all restrictions on unilateral transfers overseas.

• Enabling Israelis to make payments here in cash or checks in any currency.

• Permitting taking any sum of shekels out of the country.

• Allowing citizens to use credit cards via overseas financial intermediaries and not just through Israeli organizations.

Details of the tax measures that will accompany these changes have still not been revealed by the Treasury.

Alterations to the tax regulations will require legislation.

New Jerusalem Hilton
on
King David Street
opens today.
See pages 20 and 21.

NEWS

in brief

Kahalani decries rise in violent crime

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani convened the top police brass yesterday to discuss the rise in violent crime, including murder. Channel 2 reported last night that murders were up 50 percent in the first four months of this year, over the same period last year. Insp. Gen. Yehuda Wilk expressed concern about the increasing viciousness of many crimes. He said that by the end of the year, police would have better ways of dealing with these types of crimes. Kahalani said he feared the murder last week of Prisons Service officer Dr. Ya'acov Zigelboim would lead to a spate of revenge killings of law enforcement officials. "If it comes to this, we will lose all semblance of democracy," Kahalani said. *Tim*

Group: Palestinian photographer was tortured

A Palestinian photographer who works for the Reuters news agency was tortured by the Palestinian security forces, a Palestinian prisoners' rights group said yesterday. Abbas Momani, 25, suffered electric shock and was deprived of sleep and food, the Damiir group announced. He tried to escape by jumping from the third floor of a Palestinian lock-up in Ramallah, but was rearrested. The PA accused Momani of having filmed a statement by Hamas fugitive Awad Awadallah last month, broadcast on April 8, in which Awadallah denied that he killed Hamas bombmaker Muhi Sharif and blamed the killing on Israel and the PA. Momani denied PA accusations and said he had collected the videotape in Ramallah after receiving an anonymous tip. *Tim*

TA Labor branch backs Huldai

The council of the Labor Party's Tel Aviv branch yesterday unanimously decided to support the mayoral candidacy of Ron Huldai. Huldai met earlier in the day with branch chairman Gidon Saguy. Deputy Mayor Doron Sapir, meanwhile, withdrew his candidacy, leaving Huldai as Labor's only candidate. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Bassiouny's immunity hearing postponed

Egyptian Ambassador Mohammed Bassiouny's diplomatic immunity hearing, which was to open at the Tel Aviv Magistrate's Court yesterday, was postponed to May 25. Bassiouny claims he is entitled to diplomatic immunity in the civil suit brought against him by Tel Aviv belly dancer Shulamit Shalom.

The hearing was postponed at the request of Shalom's attorneys, who argued that as a sexual assault victim their client should not have to pay the court's filing fee.

Magistrate Court President Dan Arbel decided to put off the hearing until the filing fee issue is settled by another magistrate on May 20. Bassiouny is being sued for allegedly sexually assaulting Shalom last summer. *Michal Yudelman*

Syrians seek release from jail

Two Syrians being held in Hasharon Prison recently appealed to Tel Aviv District Court for release. Ahmed Dahar contended that he fled to Israel because he wanted to end his days in a democratic country. He also said that he has no idea why he has been held in prison since June 15, 1997. Dahar has asked for political asylum. The other prisoner, Adel Agog, a shepherd who said he mistakenly entered Israel on the Golan Heights while seeking to enter Lebanon, asked to be expelled to another country. He has been in prison since June 1996. *Tim*

Friedman withdraws from Naamat election

Naamat Chairperson Ofra Friedman decided last night to step down from the elections for Naamat's leadership scheduled for this summer, apparently due to the Hissadrut leadership's decision to change the election system. Friedman, who recently announced she would run an independent campaign rather than head Labor's list, said she would explain her reasons for withdrawing from the contest at a press conference this morning. *Michal Yudelman*

Egypt says peace process in worst crisis yet

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said in an interview broadcast yesterday that the Middle East peace process was embroiled in its deepest crisis so far. "We are always back to square one. We are in the midst of an unprecedented crisis since the beginning of the peace process," Moussa told Egypt's Nile TV. "The current Israeli policies do not augur well at all for the future of this region. The current Israeli government is not ready for peace," Moussa said. "Or they are ready for an Israeli peace to be imposed on the Arab side, which cannot be done." *Reuters*

ALBRIGHT

Continued from Page 1

Albright will discuss with Netanyahu "some of these positive elements" he presented to Ross, and explore with him whether these positive elements are sufficient to get us to a yes," Rubin added.

After Albright reports back to Clinton, Rubin said, the US will decide "whether a reexamination" of the US's role in the peace process, which Albright threatened last week, "is appropriate at that point."

"Let me say this: We have to bring this phase of American

mediation to a conclusion. It's gone on far too long. We've been at this for many, many months," Rubin said. "But this can't go on forever and there is a need to make some decisions."

He called this an example of how the US means to go "the extra mile" to ascertain "whether, through a little more creativity and a good atmosphere here in Washington on Wednesday, we can really move the ball down the field."

Rubin also stated that the US has moved Arafat "dramatically from where he began this process" in his territorial demands, and that the US plan makes demands on both Israel and the Palestinians.

Carolina prison, where he is serving a life sentence.

"It is to be noted that this position is consistent with the factual determinations expressed in the open conclusions of the sub-committee on intelligence services and security of the Knesset, as well as of the committee of clarification established by the prime minister [the Rotenstreich-Tsur Committee]," the communiqué said.

The government is mounting a campaign to convince the American authorities, and especially US President Bill Clinton, that the punishment meted out to Pollard was excessive in view of the treatment given by US courts to others found guilty of espionage.

PA plans massive 'Nakba' march

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority has moved from peace diplomacy to grassroots action, organizing a mass march that officials hope will attract at least 1 million people to demand Palestinian independence.

The planned demonstration on Thursday comes as PA officials and legislators are expressing concern that the breakdown of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks will result in violence in the territories.

Thursday, May 14, is the 50th anniversary of the date the State of Israel was declared, according to the secular calendar.

"We hope that this will be a march that will demonstrate unity," said Abu Nidal Salameh, the PA coordinator of the march. "We are calling on all Palestinians to express their support for independence. Everything is arranged and prepared."

Earlier, the PA cabinet called on all Palestinians to participate in the march. Officials said the demonstration is styled after the Million Man March on Washington that Louis Farrakhan organized in 1997.

Salameh told the Voice of Palestine that the march will begin at 10 a.m. around the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with Palestinians marching from Rafiah in the south toward Gaza City.

Demonstrators in Gaza will head north to Beit Hanoun and the Israeli checkpoints.

Other marches will take place in major cities in the West Bank. PA



A masked man displays pistols while a father carries his daughter on his shoulders, during a march yesterday in Nablus marking the 50th anniversary of the 'Nakba' (disaster), i.e., the founding of the State of Israel. On Thursday, massive marches are being planned to commemorate the event. (AP)

officials did not detail the route of major marches there.

At noon, Palestinians will be asked to stand for one minute of silence to commemorate the *nakba*. Then PA Chairman Yasser Arafat will speak for 20 minutes. Another march organizer and PA

official, Ribhi Mahmoud, said the theme of Thursday's march will be "50 years of steadfastness and resistance."

PA officials stressed that the marchers would be well-organized, they did not rule out that the demonstrations could eventually turn into

violent anti-Israeli protests.

PA officials also called on Israeli Arabs to organize marches and commemorate the 50th anniversary of the *nakba* (catastrophe).

A festival is to take place at the site of a former Arab village between Nazareth and Shfaram in the Galilee

on Friday to mark the *nakba*.

The event, which will include stage shows and entertainment, is the central one being organized by the Israeli Arab leadership to commemorate their defeat in 1948.

David Rudge contributed to this report.

No-confidence motions fail

By LIAT COLLINS

Two no-confidence motions in the prime minister failed yesterday, one in a tie vote of 45 and the other 45-46. Although the votes would have required 61 MKs to pass, the results are considered a slap in the face for the government.

MK David Magen (Geshet) voted with the opposition as a protest of the socioeconomic situation. The two Moledet MKs also voted against the government, saying their act was a warning against withdrawal in Judea and Samaria.

The motions were filed by Labor and the Democratic Arab Party on the findings of the State Comptroller's Report and by Meretz and Hadash on the failure of the London talks. Discussions on them spilled over onto other issues, principally haredi-secular relations and the calls "Death to Arabs" heard at Safra Square in Jerusalem during the celebrations of the Betar Jerusalem football team victory.

Opposition MKs accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who was at the celebrations, of not condemning the death cries.

The outset of the debate was marked by a bitter exchange between Labor whip Elie Goldschmidt and MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism).

"Someone who can explain on radio that he cannot stand a moment of silence on Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's War in

memory of the fallen should be quiet in the plenum. You should be ashamed of yourself... After that you are surprised what's going on in the country... Go into the army. Send your children into the army. Send them to Lebanon before you dare talk here," Goldschmidt shouted at Gafni.

Gafni said in response, "I would have expected a party faction head would act towards moderation... One of the most painful things is the respect for the fallen. He stands there and misquotes me and keeps repeating lies."

Gafni said he stands for the minute of silence in public and when at home he learns mishna and psalms as an act of memorial.

Deputy Defense Minister Silvan Shalom told the opposition MKs: "I am tired of standing here week after week listening to the same empty slogans and empty words."

He said the government would act, as in the past, on the recommendations of the State Comptroller's Report. He said the Labor government also had been criticized in previous reports for political appointments, including political appointments of haredim.

Regarding the diplomatic process, Shalom said the matter is top priority for the government, "but there are three central problems: the size of the redeployment; whether or not there would be a third further redeployment; and reciprocity in the implementation of the agreements."

Opposition MKs chide Barak

By LIAT COLLINS

Labor Party leader Ehud Barak came under heavy fire at a meeting of opposition MKs yesterday, although Meretz MKs said he is their preferred candidate for prime minister.

"I thought we had met to show solidarity, but it seems the differences of opinion among the opposition are stronger," Barak said.

Former party leader Shimon Peres said Barak is mistaken if he thinks Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will not carry out a redeployment. "It could very well be there will be a second redeployment," Peres said, but he added it would not lead to anything. "The government in its current composition stands no chance of reaching a permanent arrangement [with the Palestinians]."

He said the opposition faces a struggle over the permanent arrangements and the democratic

nature of Israel.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid criticized Barak more openly, saying he is not sticking to a clear policy.

"I think our camp has a good candidate for prime minister, on condition we don't shoot him in the foot or he doesn't shoot himself in the foot," said Sarid. "We must be much more clear. Can we agree to a 13.1 percent redeployment? Yes, we can permit ourselves to admit it."

He also criticized Labor for opposing a bill by Meretz MK Naomi Chazan calling for separation of state and religion, while supporting a rally Saturday night on a similar theme.

Barak responded by telling Sarid: "We are partners in the belief in the need for clarity and we are clear... But we're like a competitor in a hurdle race who puts weights on his legs."

Barak said Labor opposes religious coercion, but prefers to

combat it through dialogue rather than risking a cultural war.

Hadash MK Salah Salim accused the rest of the opposition, particularly Labor, of not being active enough and warned Barak: "Don't take it for granted that the Arab vote is in your pocket. The attitude toward Arabs must change."

Democratic Arab Party MK Abdul Wahab Darawshe said: "I ask myself: Will Labor still let us join in when we're in the coalition or does it see us as a partner only while we're in the opposition?"

Meretz whip Haim Oron said: "I suggest we accept it as a given that there are differences of opinion among the four [opposition] parties. But there are issues we agree on: ending the days of this government and standing behind Ehud Barak as candidate for prime minister. We cannot allow any interest to override these two issues we have in common."

PLC in uproar over budget

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Legislative Council was in an uproar yesterday over what many members charged was the refusal of the Palestinian Authority to provide information on its forthcoming budget.

The session threatened to pit the council against the authority until legislators became convinced they should give the PA more time to respond.

The dispute stemmed from the presentation of the PA budget to the council's budget and finance committee last month. The council had questions regarding the budget and sent them to the Finance

Ministry, giving it two weeks to respond. By yesterday, the deadline had passed and the ministry had not responded, which upset PLC members.

"It's clear that this is a problem that goes beyond the budget," said Nabil Amr, referring to previous council complaints that the PA has been unresponsive.

Several council members urged the PLC to immediately schedule a special session to discuss the PA failure to respond to budget queries. "What kind of beast is this council," said Salah Tasamari. "The council can't debate the budget."

Others, however, urged that the PA be given more of a grace period

to respond. Some legislators said the PLC has been negligent as well — saying the budget questions were sent only three days ago. "We aren't seeking a crisis," Amr said. "We are seeking a settlement."

PLC sources attributed the delays to the absence of several key PLC members. For example, the budget chairman, Saeed Krausz, was in Baghdad earlier this month. PLC speaker Ahmed Qurei was in Europe and in the US in connection with stalled peace talks.

"When Abu Alaa [Qurei's nom de guerre] is away, then you can't expect anything to run smoothly," a PLC source said. "He's the one with the clout in the council."

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Report: Clinton, Yeltsin headed for showdown over Iran

By DOUGLAS DAVIS

LONDON — US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin are heading for a showdown this week over reports that Moscow is about to sell nuclear weapons technology to Iran.

Concern about the technology transfer, which violates a 1995 agreement between Clinton and Yeltsin, has been heightened by a planned visit to Moscow this week by an Iranian delegation to discuss "nuclear cooperation."

Diplomatic sources quoted by the *Sunday Times* of London said Clinton would raise the issue with Yeltsin when they meet during the G8 conference of industrialized nations, which starts in Birmingham, England today.

In the past, Russia has conceded it was selling nuclear technology to Iran, but it insisted this was intended strictly for civilian use.

However, US intelligence officials say the visiting Iranian delegation has requested a demonstration of gas centrifuge technology, which is used for enriching uranium to levels required for nuclear bombs. Such demonstrations are regarded as a prelude to the sale of such equipment.

Concern about Iranian attempts to acquire nuclear weapons technology has been intensified by reports that missile technology is also on Iran's shopping list in Moscow.

The Iranian nuclear delegation to Russia, which is being led by the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization, will hold talks with officials at Russia's Atomic

Energy Ministry and at the Kurchatov nuclear research center in Moscow.

The delegation will also visit a power plant in St. Petersburg, which is thought to be supplying parts for the 1,000-megawatt light-water nuclear reactor at Bushehr under an \$800 million deal with the Russians three years ago.

Former presidential aide Aleksei Yablokov said he found it "a little bizarre that a country with the oil resources of Iran should be interested in developing atomic energy. It's pretty obvious that the end aim is to manufacture nuclear weapons."

In the 1995 agreement, Yeltsin told Clinton he would veto the sale of nuclear technology with dual-use capability, but there is widespread concern that he is about to renege on that agreement.

The anticipated Clinton-Yeltsin meeting follows talks between US National Security Adviser Sandy Berger and Russian officials over threats posed by Moscow's nuclear program and the proliferation of biological weapons.

It is understood that an even more virulent strain of the lethal Ebola disease, which ravaged the Congo, has been developed in Russian laboratories, and Clinton is said to be alarmed at the prospect of such biological agents finding their way into the arsenal of terrorist groups.

Clinton recently ordered exercises to be held to prepare emergency services in case the "ebola pox" virus — a highly infectious combination of ebola and smallpox — is used by terrorists in the US.

Croatian FM expresses 'eternal' condemnation of Holocaust

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic yesterday expressed his country's "eternal condemnation" of the Holocaust and regretted "the tragedy of the Jews on Croatian territory" caused by the puppet fascist regime that held power in Zagreb during World War II.

Granic, who also serves as deputy prime minister, spoke at Yad Vashem, where he also paid tribute to "all those who risked and gave their lives to save their Jewish brothers and mankind from the Nazi madness."

His emotional declaration marked the start of an official visit during which Granic — the highest-ranking member of the post-communist Croatian government to visit Israel — evidently hopes to cement and upgrade the diplomatic links between Zagreb and Jerusalem.

Several bilateral agreements were signed during a brief meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Granic told *The Jerusalem Post* that they covered civil aviation, tourism and the status of diplomatic passports.

In addition, agreements on trade between the two countries and double taxation are nearing completion, according to Foreign Ministry Director-General Eytan Bentsur, who recently visited Croatia.

Another agreement is reportedly in the works in which Israeli firms would "modernize" Croatia's Soviet-made T-55 tanks.

Granic did not confirm this, however, preferring to say that "there are discussions between us."

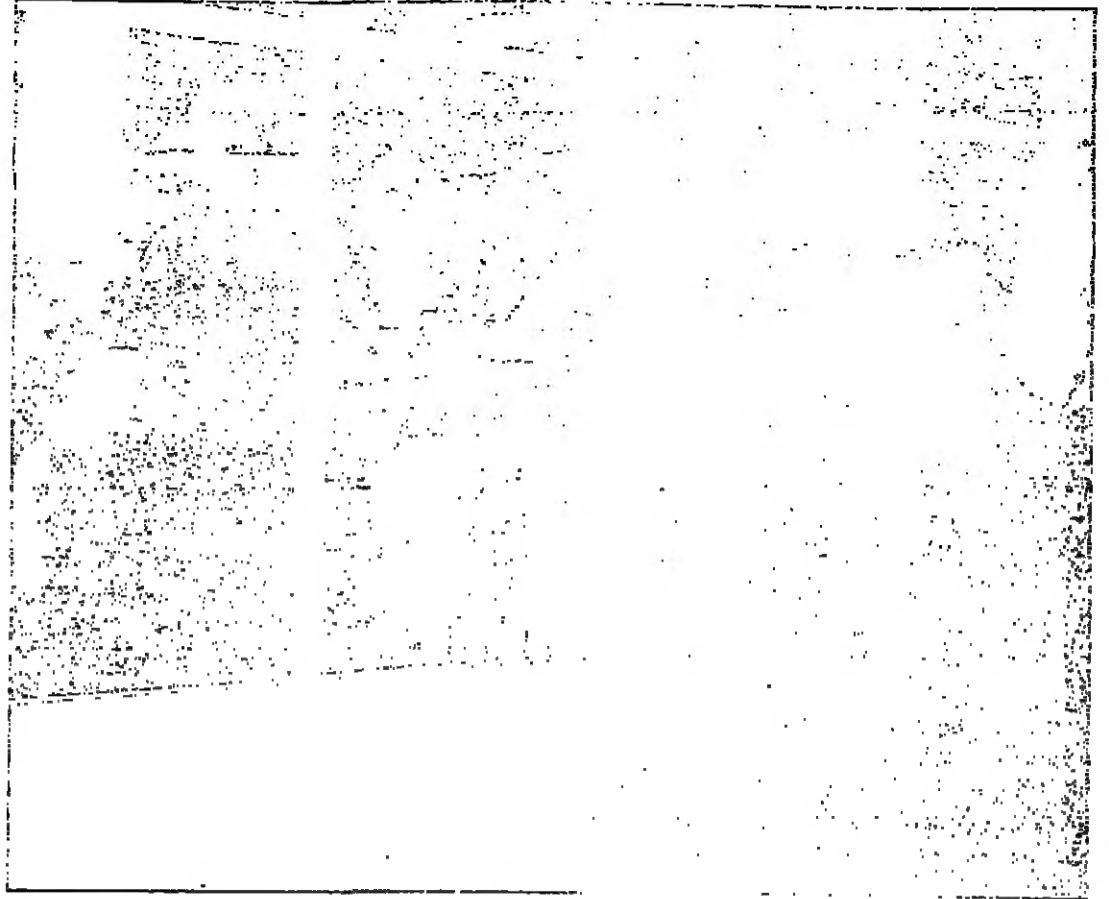
Bentsur regarded Granic's visit as a prelude to one by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

Granic assured Netanyahu that his government not only has demanded the extradition from Argentina of a Dunke S. K. M. alleged wartime commander of the infamous Jasenovac death camp, but also that it intends to conduct a public trial in his case. He told Netanyahu of a letter requesting that legal proceedings be undertaken immediately.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center urged Granic to confirm his government's willingness to arrest and extradite the alleged ex-fascist commander of the Dubrovnik area who allegedly was involved in the murder of Jews, Serbs and Gypsies.

Efraim Zuroff, director of the center's office here, said Rojnica "reportedly is visiting Zagreb from his home in Argentina."

Granic said this was "an artificial case" because there is no evidence that Rojnica actually participated in war crimes. To prove his point, Granic said Rojnica has visited Israel and has many Jewish friends.



Croatian Foreign Minister Mate Granic visits Yad Vashem yesterday.

AP/Wide World

HEBREW PRESS REVIEW

By ORLY AHARONI

New nomination

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai's official announcement declaring Deputy Chief of General Staff Maj.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz as his choice for the next chief of general staff should be welcomed despite the delay in the decision-making process, states *Ma'ariv's* Oded Granot. He adds that the talented and deserving Mofaz will face serious challenges, especially when operational failures will be attributed to his relative lack of experience in comparison to his rival Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilnai.

"This time, we are not only dealing with the appointment of a new CGS... but also the dismissal of an experienced major-general," writes *Ha'aretz's* Ze'ev Schiff, who also states that it is in the public interest that Vilnai not pack his bags and disappear.

Yediot Aharonot's Ron Ben-Yishai feels that Mofaz is a logical choice, and that it is understandable that Mordechai has chosen someone he feels he can work with in harmony, "but one cannot forgive the defense minister for dragging Vilnai along."

Ha'aretz's Uzi Benziman concludes that the state is managed by deceit, referring to Mordechai's misleading Vilnai into thinking that he was the only candidate. "[Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu, Mordechai, and all the other public figures who run state affairs must realize that power based on deceit spreads contamination and threatens governmental order and the stability of society."

Hillary's declaration

Hillary Clinton's public announcement that she supports the establishment of a Palestinian state was obviously coordinated with her husband, US President Bill Clinton, writes *Ma'ariv's* Yosef Lapid, who claims that it was Clinton's warning to Netanyahu that the US will support a Palestinian state if Israel does not accept the 13 percent redeployment.

"Hillary's chutzpa has exceeded all limits," says *Ha'aretz's* Zvi Barel. "All of a sudden every

leader goes around with a wife who expresses a pro-Palestinian stand." Barel adds that Hillary's "slip-up" represents one sign among many of the administration's disappointment with Israel. "Little signs, almost imperceptible in the administration's understated rhetoric, but frightening just like the signs that only the seismologists or CT technicians manage to observe."

Moshe Zak in *Ma'ariv* claims that Netanyahu owes Hillary gratitude for her remark. "Hillary has freed him from a dangerous entanglement in the webs of the American diktat to carry out the summit in Washington," Zak states that accepting Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's invitation, after Hillary's declaration would have been a dangerous move. "The problem does not lie in the percentage that will be given today, but the intentions of the negotiators tomorrow."

No. 1

"The truly great news from Eurovision is that the politically correct is stronger than the political," writes Sarit Fox in *Ma'ariv*, referring to Dana International's victory in the song contest, despite the lack of political support for Israel throughout the world. "On the night of the Eurovision, Dana turned into a symbol of a pluralistic world... she symbolized our potential for freedom, and for a moment we once again seemed like a country where dreams are made, the country for rebels, a lost paradise of harmony and chaos."

Yaron London in *Yediot* believes that the honor that Israel has received is dubious in such a poor competition. As for Dana representing freedom, London does not believe this is the case. He claims that her exaggerated feminine behavior reflects the "caricature of a woman and not the image of a woman."

Ma'ariv's Granot states that only a grandiose event, such as the Eurovision in Jerusalem in May 1999, "might distract the world's attention from Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's declaration of a Palestinian state due to take place at exactly the same time."

SOLDIERS

Continued from Page 1

Israel has lodged numerous complaints over Hizbullah's use of villages and public facilities as cover for firing at IDF and SLA targets — in breach of the understandings.

Senior IDF officers have accused Hizbullah of bringing the fighting into villages north of the zone and thereby endangering civilians. The officers noted that under the understandings, the IDF has the right to act in self-defense and silence firing, even if the source is close to or inside villages.

The vast majority of Hizbullah's operations over many months have been long-range attacks on IDF and SLA outposts, apparently because of the heavy casualties it has suffered in attempts to infiltrate the zone.

UNIFIL sources noted that its troops had recorded a total of 120 incidents in April, most of them cases of long-range attacks. The number was the highest for a single month in the last 12 years, the sources said.

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Amiram Levine held a meeting with senior officers last night at which it was decided not to instruct Galilee residents to stay in bomb shelters or security rooms.

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PM 'happy' to host Eurovision in J'lem

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday congratulated Eurovision song contest winner Dana International and Zvika Pik, who composed the prize-winning song "Diva." He said Israel would be happy to host next year's Eurovision in Jerusalem.

The transsexual Dana's Eurovision triumph sparked off a raging controversy, as Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Haim Miller, of Agudat Yisrael, vowed he would not permit holding the contest in Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem is our holy city and we won't allow the Eurovision contest to be held here. I'll prevent it. Just like we prevented the Batsheva performance in the Jubilee Bells show," Miller said yesterday.

Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert dismissed Miller's statement and said: "It doesn't matter what one blabbermouth has to say. Miller represents only himself, and I'm not sure even of that."

"I'm the mayor and what I say goes. And I will be pleased to hold the Eurovision in Jerusalem. This city is against censorship in matters of culture and art."

But another of Olmert's deputies, Nissim Ze'ev of Shas, also said he would strongly oppose having the contest in Jerusalem.

President Ezer Weizman said in his opinion the Eurovision contest should be held in Jerusalem, but added he would not intervene. He denied reports that he had suggested holding it in Eilat.

Education and Culture Minister Yitzhak Levy (National Religious Party) applauded International, the song's composers, and back-up singers, and issued a statement saying: "Once again we've proved Israel is on the European map. The victory brought honor to Israel and Israeli songs."

Transport Minister Shaul Yahalom (NRP) said there is no reason not to hold the next



Dana International waves to her fans upon arriving at Ben-Gurion Airport late Sunday night.

(Brian Hendler)

Eurovision in Jerusalem and that he was astonished "at the haredi objections."

MK Avraham Poraz, of Shinui, suggested having the Eurovision contest in Tel Aviv, "for although this may be interpreted as a surrender to the religious, Tel Aviv is the capital of secular culture in Israel."

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon proposed holding the Eurovision in a giant tent to be erected in the Knesset compound.

"It's inconceivable that an event watched by 600 million people throughout Europe should not take

place in Jerusalem and be forced to some other place for irrelevant reasons," he said.

Emanuel Zissmann, chairman of the Knesset Education and Culture Committee, invited International and Israel Broadcasting Authority director-general Uri Porat to the committee's meeting tomorrow.

He said he intends to give the singer a gift and urge state bodies to help raise the funds for next year's Eurovision production.

Referring to Miller's past comparison of the national flag to a rag, MK Eliezer Zandberg

(Tsomet) said: "One Dana proudly waving the Israeli flag in front of millions around the world is worth more than a thousand Haim Millers, for whom the flag is just a rag on a stick."

There is no doubt Haim Miller and his ilk have not and will not in their lives bring a fraction of the honor and pride to Israel that Dana did at Eurovision."

David Ridge adds: Haifa Mayor Amram Mizna is making a bid to host Eurovision in his city, which he described as a "shining example of tolerance and

balance."

In a letter to Porat, he said that the city's convention center would be the ideal venue for the Eurovision. He stressed that the center is one of the biggest in the country, with seats for 2,200 and all the necessary technical facilities for staging such a musical extravaganza.

Mizna underlined the harmonious relations between the city's secular and religious and Jewish and Arab residents.

Liat Collins also contributed to this report.

Damned if they do; damned if they don't

"Go to the army," Labor MK Elie Goldschmidt shouted to United Torah Judaism MK Moshe Gafni in the Knesset yesterday. "Send your kids to the army. Send them to Lebanon, before you dare to speak here."

the army, university, and even the theater." According to Zilbershlag, if the haredim go into the army, they will then be scorned for not going into elite units.

IN CONTEXT

By HERB KEIRON

It's the refrain heard in nearly every skirmish between haredim and the secular over any number of issues. Whatever the dispute — graves, bus shelters, Shabbat movies, road closings — a constant thread woven through all the arguments against the haredim is: "You don't go to the army, you don't risk your lives, so don't dictate to us what to do."

But what if the haredim did do the army? What if the bill Ehud Barak submitted yesterday passed, and by the end of the year some 28,000 haredim showed up at the induction base for their shots and army fatigues? Would that then lower the acrimony between the two sides?

"Not a chance," said Moshe Grylak, editor of the haredi weekly *Mishpaha*. "We are the strangers, the natives, the Indians. Going into the army won't change anything. People just need an excuse to hate us. They can always find an excuse."

Grylak said the haredi-secular tension involves much more than just the army issue, although that is the issue which arouses the greatest passions.

"The reason for the problems is the basic inability of each side to accept the other," he said. "The [secular] Israeli cannot be tolerant of a group that says 'I am the real Jew,' and the haredim cannot be tolerant of a world outlook that sees the people of Israel without its [religious] framework."

Haredi businessman and activist David Zilbershlag also said there is no reason to believe that drafting yeshiva students will ease the rising religious-secular tensions.

"Israelis are prisoners to stereotypes," he said. "In this regard, all the national-religious were identified with Yigal Amir — and this is a population that goes with them to

satisfy everyone," he said. On the other side of the chasm, Yitzhak Eliner, director of the Public Committee for a Constitution for Israel, a group that has been actively waging a campaign under the banner "Stop Religious Coercion," agreed that the rifts will remain even after mobilization of haredim.

"Drafting haredim is a localized solution; it goes around the problem, but does not deal with it head on," he said.

"You can't send a haredi soldier to the army without having him be part of the work force, or without him agreeing to a number of basic Zionist values. It is difficult to send haredim to the army if they don't respect Zionist values, or think they are part of the Zionist enterprise."

"So they will go into the army. I don't see a lot of good in that unless they understand modern, secular concepts. We see the problem with the haredim as part of a greater problem of religion and state, not just the army."

Eliner said that the basic law the group wants to see adopted, a basic law of religious freedom, would ensure equal rights for equal obligations without discrimination on the grounds of religion.

"The haredim have to understand," Eliner said. "Either they live here, fulfill their obligations and get their full rights, or — since I can't and have no intention of throwing them out — they do not get all their rights if they do not fulfill all their obligations."

The army, or any national service for three years, is just one part of those obligations, Eliner said. Contributing to the economy, paying taxes, is another. As such, drafting yeshiva students just deals with one part of the equation, leaving many other parts to be dealt with.

Knesset panel blames police for prison official's murder

By LIAT COLLINS

Members of the Knesset Interior Committee yesterday told Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani that a failing in police intelligence led to last week's murder of the head of the Prisons Service's medical and rehabilitation programs, Dr. Yaakov Zigelboim.

Prisons Service Commissioner Amos

Azani, told the committee he also has received threats on his life. He said prisoners continue to run their affairs on the outside via telephone calls and furloughs.

Kahalani said there is a lack of police manpower.

"We need another 1,000 people," he said, adding he had called on the government for funding and at the same time he is looking into ways to reorganize the police budget.

He also said the rise in crime is an interdisciplinary problem including education, legislative and judicial systems.

"We should stick together and examine the problem," he said. "Not only the police should be criticized."

He told reporters: "We are in a difficult situation. I think the criminals have changed their behavior and are doing things they never did before. We have to develop new

weapons in the police to fight this."

Kahalani said he also had received threats. He said for a while he, Azani and Zigelboim had received protection, but this had been removed when the professional body responsible said it was no longer necessary.

Committee chairman Sallah Tarif charged that "the police intelligence failed," while MK Naomi Blumenthal (Likud) called for a commission of inquiry into the murder.

Tichon opposes increasing MKs' pensions

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon called a press conference yesterday to stress his objections to the idea being raised by some MKs of doubling their annual pensions from 2 percent to 4%. The pensions were cut two years ago, following recommendations by the Rosen-Zvi Commission on MKs' salaries and pensions, in return for a 33% hike in wages, which have since been increased further.

"The Rosen-Zvi recommendations are still valid," Tichon said. "The MKs lost out by them, but it took them a long time to understand that in the long-term the pensions are more important than the wage hike."

The recommendation that decisions on MKs' wages and salary be determined by an outside body rather than the MKs themselves is still being discussed, although it has faced heavy opposition from the parliamentarians.

Tichon noted that the upcoming municipal elections are likely to raise again the debate on another

recommendation of the Rosen-Zvi Commission, which prevents MKs from holding outside positions such as mayoralty.

MKs mull plan to help olim buy land

A plan to give preferential treatment to new immigrants buying land for construction under a program run by the Jewish Agency and the Israel Lands Administration was discussed yesterday at a meeting of the Knesset Immigration and Absorption Committee. The session examined ways of encouraging immigration, particularly from South Africa.

"Without attractive projects which will ensure South African Jews have a possibility to purchase homes, they will continue to emigrate to Australia and Canada," said committee chairwoman Naomi Blumenthal

AT THE KNESSET

By LIAT COLLINS

tion for the immigrants from the need to answer a tender as the law requires."

"We're talking about integrating immigrants in the rural and communal sector and less in urban settlements," said Yigal Yerushalmi, director of the Jewish Agency's Settlement Division.

"The cost of a half-dunam plot, including development, will be only some \$30,000 to \$40,000," he said.

Bill on holding prisoners ready for first reading

The Knesset Law Committee yesterday approved for first reading a bill by MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet) under which Israel would not release Palestinian security prisoners until the Palestinian

Authority hands over all wanted terror suspects.

Committee chairman Hanan Porat (National Religious Party) presented a letter from the Defense Ministry saying that nine terrorists wanted by Israel are currently serving in the Palestinian Police.

A Justice Ministry official said there are 33 unanswered requests for terrorists to be handed over. There had been 36 requests, but Israel caught two and one has been killed. Another three requests are about to be issued.

55% of unemployed are women

Some 55 percent of the unemployed are women, according to Prime Minister's Office Director-General Moshe Leon, who heads an interministerial committee on unemployment. He spoke at a sub-committee of the Knesset Committee on the Status of Women yesterday.

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Meridor: PM unsuited for office

By SARAH HONG

MK Dan Meridor (Likud) emerged from his Sunday night meeting with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with harsh words for the premier and a wide range of options before him.

"I have not changed my mind about him," he told Israel Radio yesterday. "I continue to consider him unsuited for the office and remain convinced that he must be replaced."

But Meridor did not say anything about his own political plans, repeating past statements that whether or not he decides to run for prime minister, "the announcement will come in due time. It is extremely premature to decide anything now."

"This country is not run as it should be," Meridor said about Netanyahu. "No one attends to the real problems, but just to images and headlines. Instead of dealing with the Palestinians, we are heading toward a dangerous isolation... Not all the ills are the government's doing, but things need to be taken care of, boundaries must be set, but instead we play pretend games in a make-believe reality."

He noted that "in the last elections I supported Netanyahu. I will not make the same recommendation to the voters next time... The question is if we can offer the voters a choice free of the revulsion which both sides of the great political divide now generate."

Meridor said that he agreed to

meet with Netanyahu after 11 months of little contact between them, because "when the prime minister invites me, I accept. If all Netanyahu was trying to achieve was another headline, I cannot say."

As to a possible partnership with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo, who has declared his intention to found a new centrist party and run for prime minister, he said that "right now I am in the Likud and Ronni is not. If this changes - whichever way - the options would be open."

Political observers noted that Meridor had nothing substantively new to say, but that the fact that he expressed such stinging criticism of Netanyahu, shortly after speaking with him, indicates a total about-face.

Meridor could move in several

directions, they said. He could challenge Netanyahu for the Likud leadership and nomination for prime minister. He could also, at some point, leave the Likud and set out on his own. Persistent rumors inside the Likud claim Meridor has been raising funds abroad for a prime ministerial race.

His best bet, it is agreed in the Likud, is to stay in the party for now. Since he quit as finance minister, he has made it clear that he will not exile himself to the political desert by quitting the Likud. Meridor in effect has made the same choice as MK Ze'ev Begin, who also formally remains in the party, while mounting an internal opposition to Netanyahu.

Those around Netanyahu regard

Meridor as a more potent danger than Milo because he can bite into moderate right-wing support, while Milo would attract mainly left of center votes.

A source close to Netanyahu argued yesterday that his meeting with Meridor may have been geared more to the near future, as he fears a no confidence motion from the right if he opts for reemployment. He appealed to Meridor not to join these moves.

Milo, meanwhile, reported that he had received several threatening faxes and calls since he announced that he would run for premier. He thinks the perpetrators are from extreme hard circles. The police are investigating and have stepped up protection for Milo.

PA to open computer training centers for unemployed

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority has drafted a plan to combat unemployment based on training young Palestinians in computer science in programs funded by donor nations, officials said yesterday.

At the start of a three-day conference on employment cosponsored by the Swedish government, PA Labor Minister Samir Ghosheh said a priority has been the establishment of training centers in cooperation with friendly countries.

He said several such training and development centers are being opened in the territories. This includes the opening at the beginning of this year of a computer training facility. The center will be used to train PA employees in computers.

The minister said the PA strategic program is based on the development of the private sector to provide an increasing number of jobs for young Palestinians.

This would complement laws that would guarantee the safety of private investment as well as labor laws.

PA officials said they can no longer count on Israel to provide the new jobs required for Palestinian high-school and university graduates. They said the increasing number of foreign workers in Israel are taking jobs away from Palestinians.

Speakers blamed Israel for much of the Palestinian unemployment, citing IDF closures as a prime reason for the failure of Palestinians to find jobs.

"The Palestinian unemployment problem will be difficult to solve as long as the Israeli presence continues on Palestinian land," said Haider Ibrahim, a representative of the Arab Labor Organization.

PA statistics report unemployment in the third quarter of 1997 at 18.3 percent in the West Bank and 31.6 percent in the Gaza Strip. The unemployment rate throughout the PA-controlled territories for the same period was 21.5%.



Greeting Japanese army chief

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai (right) meets with Japanese Ground Forces commander Gen. Yugi Fuginawa yesterday. The meeting focused on the positive role of the Japanese troops serving with UNDOF on the Golan Heights. Other issues discussed included the Middle East situation, including the threat of missiles and chemical and biological weapons. (Reuters)

First cross-matched kidney transplant today

By JUDY SIEGEL

A Jewish resident of Jerusalem will today receive the kidney of a Moslem man from Jisr-e-Zarka, and the Jerusalemite's wife will donate one of her kidneys to the Moslem man's wife.

This organ exchange, to be performed at the Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus, will be the first of its kind in the world.

Only recently did the Health Ministry decide to permit such a cross-matching arrangement, by which a relative of someone needing a kidney, but who is not histologically (issue) compatible with them, can donate instead to another person and in exchange, receive a kidney for their relative in need.

The cross-matching is closely supervised by a ministry committee to ensure that organs are exchanged on an altruistic basis.

Yosef Tzilag, a Finance Ministry consultant who has been undergoing dialysis for 10 months, will receive a kidney from Youssef Amache, a driver from the coastal village near Zichron Ya'akov.

Vicky Tzilag, meanwhile, will donate a kidney to Suhan Amache, who has been on dialysis for a month. Both couples are in their 50s.

Vicky had wanted to donate a kidney to her husband, and Youssef had hoped to do so for his own wife, but they were not compatible.

According to the National Transplant Coordination Center at Beilinson, both couples are aware that one transplant could fail while the other could succeed.

In the meantime, they are "hugging and kissing each other" and hoping that all four operations (to remove and to transplant the organs) will be successful. No other country has such an organ exchange program.

Acquitted Lebanese man is deported

By DAVID RUDGE

Lebanese citizen Ali Benjak, who was acquitted by the Lod military court of being a member of Hizbullah, on the grounds of reasonable doubt, was deported to Lebanon yesterday.

Benjak was taken to the Rosh Hanikra crossing point on the border with Lebanon and handed over to members of the

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Benjak, who also was acquitted of charges of helping to fire Katyusha rockets at Israel during Operation Grapes of Wrath, was due to be taken to a Lebanese Army base and returned to his family. Benjak told reporters at the scene that he thanked God for his release and said that he had been treated

reasonably well during his detention in Israel.

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8 p.m. Gen. Haddadin, Haifa - start of Debka and Arab folklore carnival.
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7:30 p.m. Beit Hagefen sports ground, opening of National Arabic Book Fair
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On deadlines

We're not 80 percent of the way there yet. Four years ago this month, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat entered Gaza to start a five-year transition era. One year from now that process is supposed to culminate in an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty.

Deadlines, as the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin remarked, are not sacred. Both Israelis and Palestinians are more interested in getting terms they like than in finishing fast. Outsiders often don't understand this, and it's almost amusing to see Americans or Europeans frantically insist that time is the most important factor.

Still, it is an undeniable fact that all of 1997 was wasted: Nothing was achieved after the Hebron Agreement.

Most of 1998 is being used up in bickering over whether Israel would withdraw from three percent more of the West Bank. Even success over this dispute would soon plunge us into the next six-month cycle of arguing over a minor issue.

Of course, the problem stems more from Israeli politics than the complex, sensitive issues being dealt with in the negotiations. If Yitzhak Rabin or Shimon Peres were prime minister, by now we'd be deep into final negotiations with many of the major issues resolved.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's defense is that he'll get a better deal: peace with security. There is, however, a clear line between a tough negotiating posture and an intransigent one.

Contrary to appearances, though, we haven't yet arrived at his limit. Netanyahu is moving at the slowest possible speed but has not yet come to a full stop. If he doesn't go to Washington to meet President Clinton some day in May he'll get there in June or early July. Some redeployment percentage will be found to let all sides claim both victory and progress.

This problem will be resolved. But a lot more and far bigger problems remain.

Ironically, while the current situation is a big defeat for peace-making, it is potentially a big - if brief - victory for Netanyahu. Amazingly, for six months, the world's attention has been focused not on the future of Jerusalem, settlements, or a Palestinian state, but on whether Israel turns over a few rocky hillside with no population or real strategic value.

Equally incredible is how the US initiative, accepted by the Palestinians, is so close to Netanyahu's position while still being rejected by him. Aside from the small dispute over the percentage of land from which Israel would withdraw, the American and Palestinian stance is acceptance of Netanyahu's demand on two other big issues: that a third withdrawal be intertwined with final status talks, and that redeployment be carried out in several steps, each conditioned on Palestinian compliance.

In short, Israel is not being

given an ultimatum ignoring its security interests but rather a plan quite close to its demands. So why is this tiny step forward proving to be so absurdly difficult? Several reasons:

Netanyahu's goals: While Netanyahu is not "against" peace and does not want to "kill" the peace process, he does want to stall for time, eager to eat up months to gain the tiniest, often imperceptible, changes in terms.

In exchange, he is willing to use up huge amounts of Israeli credibility, leverage and political capital. He makes constant demands and complaints about Palestinian behavior but gives the Palestinians no incentive to make concessions of their own.

Israeli domestic politics: This is an obvious but overestimated factor. Many of Netanyahu's supporters and coalition partners oppose even the smallest concession.

Yet leadership can overcome this problem. After all, Netanyahu ignores their wishes on every other issue and they are hardly going to walk out and put the Labor Party into power. In short, while politics constrains the prime minister's behavior, it is also a marvelous excuse.

The direction of events: Here's the key issue. Fundamentally, US leaders - and Palestinian ones in their most perceptive moments - understand that each step in this process is leading toward the eventual creation of a Palestinian state. On one level, American leaders don't care about the content of an Israeli-Palestinian peace treaty as long as both sides agree on the terms.

But they assume that a Palestinian state and Israeli withdrawal from most of the territories are necessary conditions to any agreement. Thus, Hillary Clinton's statement favoring a Palestinian state reflected the White House's thinking, if not its official policy.

Netanyahu and his colleagues know this. Foot-dragging thus becomes a substitute for any creative strategy.

What we are seeing now is not the Big Crisis. A year from now, Arafat will declare an independent Palestinian state and the Eurovision song contest will be held in Jerusalem, perhaps in the same week. The declaration would make no practical difference except in one regard: Netanyahu could declare that the Palestinians have torn up the agreement, reject any more deals, and call elections, demanding a mandate for dealing with this crisis.

Sounds bad? Well, remember two things.

First, the overall regional situation remains remarkably good despite these problems. Arab states don't want war with Israel. The area's politics - despite nasty declarations - have really changed from past decades.

Second, the long-term factors leading toward peace are still in place and remain very powerful. This peace process is neither an accident nor a short-lived window of opportunity. We will succeed, even if it isn't on schedule.

The Region



Barry Rubin

Life in the Maze

Northern Ireland's labyrinthine, unusual prison will release most of its convicted paramilitaries if the Good Friday peace agreement is ratified - and this has voters very nervous

By MATTHEW MCALLESTER

BELFAST, Northern Ireland - Big Lew tries to hold back a smile when he remembers what it's like to try to kill a Catholic.

"I have to be honest, it's a buzz. It's like taking a couple of tabs of Ecstasy. It gets you racing," said Big Lew, as Lewis Lytle is known by his fellow prisoners in the Maze prison, home to most of Northern Ireland's convicted paramilitaries.

Lytle, a member of the Protestant paramilitary group the Ulster Freedom Fighters, is serving a 15-year sentence for attempting to kill a Catholic man. "You do it once and you immediately want to go out and do it again. But I was young," he said.

The Maze has been perhaps the world's most unusual prison since 10 Catholic prisoners demanding special privileges died during a hunger strike in 1981. Guards must ask permission of the inmates to enter their cell blocks, each run as a military fiefdom by the different paramilitary organizations whose bloodshedding has made Northern Ireland the cauldron it is today. Prisoners try mightily to escape, yet the very same inmates proudly return from unsupervised leaves on time.

The doors of this labyrinth of gray and beige passageways will swing open for most of these prisoners within two years if the Good Friday peace agreement is ratified by Northern Ireland's voters May 22. A key demand of the paramilitary groups now observing a cease-fire, the release of men with records like Lytle's into a society they have helped to terrorize, is proving to be one of the most bitter of the many pills the people of Northern Ireland are having to swallow as they seek a remedy for the violence that has ailed their communities for 30 years.

The Irish Republican Army would not allow any of its prisoners to talk to a reporter. But accompanying Big Lew Lytle through the gates of the Maze would be a variety of infamous paramilitaries on both sides of the conflict. Patrick Magee masterminded the IRA bombing of the Grand Hotel in Brighton in 1984, killing five people and narrowly failing to kill then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Protestant Michael Stone killed three mourners at an IRA funeral in 1985. Days later, at a funeral procession for Stone's victims, Alex Murphy was part of the Catholic mob that beat and killed two British army corporals who strayed into the cortege by mistake. Criminals in the eyes of many in Northern Ireland, the prisoners see themselves as soldiers who are about to be set free at the end of the war.

Although almost three-quarters of the prisoners would likely have been released within two years anyway as their natural release dates arrived, some of the victims of violence feel the prisoners - some serving life sentences - are criminals being granted a new life while the lives of their victims have been ruined forever.

"It is obviously demoralizing to see people that you've risked your life to catch and who have mur-

dered colleagues out in the street already," said Alan Burnside, a spokesman for the police officers' union in Northern Ireland and a former police officer. "We're not exactly over the moon about it."

More than just a place of punishment, the top-security Maze, 12 miles southwest of Belfast, is like a prisoner-of-war camp that allows inmates to organize themselves along military lines. There are more than 500 prisoners in eight H-shaped cell blocks, each block having four wings of 25 cells. In the center of each H-block is an area where a prison officer is stationed, but otherwise each block is controlled by one of the Catholic or Protestant paramilitary groups. In every block there is a tennis court-sized outdoor exercise yard and a weight-training room.

On his wing, Lytle is a big man. He's the commander of one of the two Ulster Freedom Fighter wings populated by men from West Belfast. He's 6-foot-2, with a lean figure that comes from hours spent in the weight room and exercise yard on his block. Hence the name: Big Lew. His yellow tennis shirt, black jeans and polished black boots mark him as a suburban dad, not a sectarian killer. There are no uniforms in this prison. Except for the guards.

There's no need for Lytle to be heavy-handed with the nearly two dozen men under his command, he said. They all have to live together.

The military discipline that revolves around respecting the rank of one's seniors helps give structure to the prisoners' lives. That prevents disputes. "Fights in the Maze are actually very, very rare," he said. "Once every six months at the most." But this does not mean the Maze is always tranquil.

Catholic prisoners in particular feel it a duty to try to escape past the thick concrete wall that circles the prison. Along that wall are watchtowers whose darkened windows conceal British soldiers, armed and ready to take the appropriate action against escapees, and beyond those are tall coils of barbed wire.

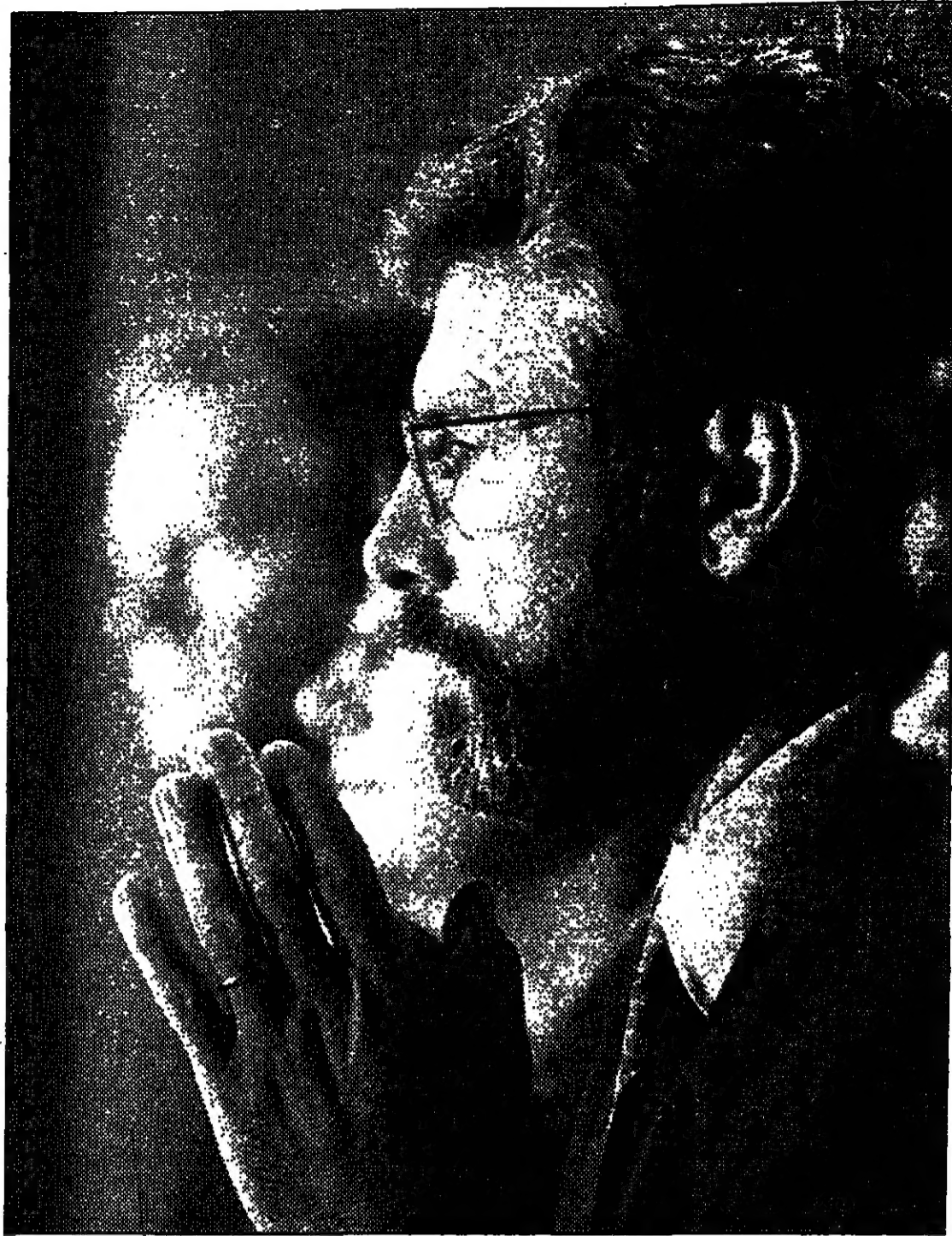
In December, an IRA prisoner dressed up as a woman at a Christmas party and walked out with the visiting wives and girlfriends. Another group of IRA men managed to dig a sophisticated tunnel over a period of about two weeks, filling two cells with dirt before any of the prison staff noticed.

And yet the same military code that demands prisoners try to escape instills in them a sense of honor that allows authorities routinely to let out on furlough people who normally would be treated like serial killers and mass murderers.

Davy McCullough, 31, the officer commanding the Protestant Ulster Volunteer Force prisoners, has a year-old son, fathered on a furlough ostensibly for McCullough to visit his elderly grandmother.

McCullough, convicted of two murders, said he has never been late returning from his unaccompanied visits.

The unique management style in the prison is frequently criti-



It was as a prisoner in the Maze in the 1970s that IRA leader Gerry Adams formulated the policies that now drive the group's political wing, Sinn Féin. (AP)

cized and was, recently, the subject of an independent government investigation following the successful escape of the frocked and lipstickied IRA prisoner - now referred to as Mrs. Doubtfire by his comrades - and two weeks later, the fatal shooting of a leading Protestant prisoner, Billy Wright, by Catholic prisoners.

The report made a large number of recommendations designed to improve morale and security at the Maze.

"This is a very difficult prison to manage, much the greatest challenge any of us have seen," read the report, authored by prison officials from mainland Great Britain.

Part of the security problem, the report said, came from the difficulties prison officers face in dealing with prisoners who are in constant contact with their paramilitary comrades on the outside.

"They've killed 29 of us," a guard said last week.

The fearful guards are therefore loath to antagonize their charges.

Prisoners have died to obtain this prisoner-of-war camp ethos. For years in the 1970s, Catholic paramilitary prisoners held protests, demanding to be treated like POWs. The protests culminated in the hunger strikes of 1981 that cost 10 men their lives. Shortly after the hunger strikes finished, the British government began to phase in the special privileges now enjoyed by the prisoners.

But there seem to be some surprising benefits to the cause of peace in the Maze's unique structure. It has long been the site of much of the clearest thinking done by the warring sides in Northern Ireland.

It was in the Maze in the 1970s that IRA leaders, including Gerry Adams, formulated the policies that now drive the group's political wing, Sinn Féin. And it was in the Maze that the IRA's Protestant counterparts decided in the mid-

1990s that they, too, would turn to politics instead of continuing the violence.

Recently, doves have started appearing in prisoners' wall paintings, testimony to the new political path the paramilitaries are determined to take, the path of peace that should soon lead to their freedom. Inmates from both sides of the conflict have long held regular meetings to discuss politics. Their influence on events outside the prison walls is enormous.

A few months ago, when the Protestant paramilitaries seemed on the verge of breaking their cease-fire and ending the peace process, the British secretary of state for Northern Ireland, Mo Mowlam, paid a visit to the prisoners and succeeded in securing a continuation of the cease-fire. No major policy decision is taken by the outside paramilitary leadership without the consultation of those in the Maze. (Newsday)

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India conducts 3 nuclear tests

Pakistan says move will ignite arms race

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — India announced yesterday that it had conducted three underground nuclear tests — its first in 24 years — in the desert state of Rajasthan, close to the border with Pakistan.

India's arch-enemy Pakistan condemned the experimental blasts and said they would suck Pakistan into an arms race. Islamabad asked the international community to condemn them.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told a hurriedly summoned news conference that the controlled blasts were carried out at 3:45 p.m. (1015 GMT) with a fissile device, a low-yield device and a thermonuclear device.

"The measured yields are in line with expected values. Measurements have also confirmed that there was no release of radioactivity into the atmosphere," he said in a statement from the lawn of his residence, a national flag standing beside him.

The British Geological Survey said its equipment had picked up tremors from the unexpected tests measuring 4.7 on the Richter scale — the equivalent of a light earthquake.

The test, India's first since its only previous test in 1974, came less than two months after the coalition government led by Vajpayee's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party took power.

The BJP made the option to introduce nuclear weapons a key plank of its platform in the elections.

The government said last month that it would decide whether to build nuclear weapons after a strategic defense review.

India has refused to sign the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, saying they are discriminatory because they allow a few countries to indefinitely hold nuclear arms with no commitment to disarm, while forcing all other to relinquish nuclear weapons.

The nuclear tests follow a spate of contro-

versial comments by India's outspoken defense minister George Fernandes on the military threat posed by China, India's nuclear-armed neighbor to the north.

India and China fought a brief but bloody war in 1962 — two years before China held its first nuclear test. Many Indian analysts say that test spurred New Delhi's test a decade later.

Fernandes also reacted sharply last month to an announcement by Pakistan, which has been at war with India three times, that it had test-flown a long-range missile.

He accused China of supplying Pakistan with the missile technology and said India's Prithvi missile could reach anywhere in Pakistan. Pakistan says it is capable of producing nuclear weapons but has never conducted a test.

Indian experts gave the unexpected tests a warm welcome.

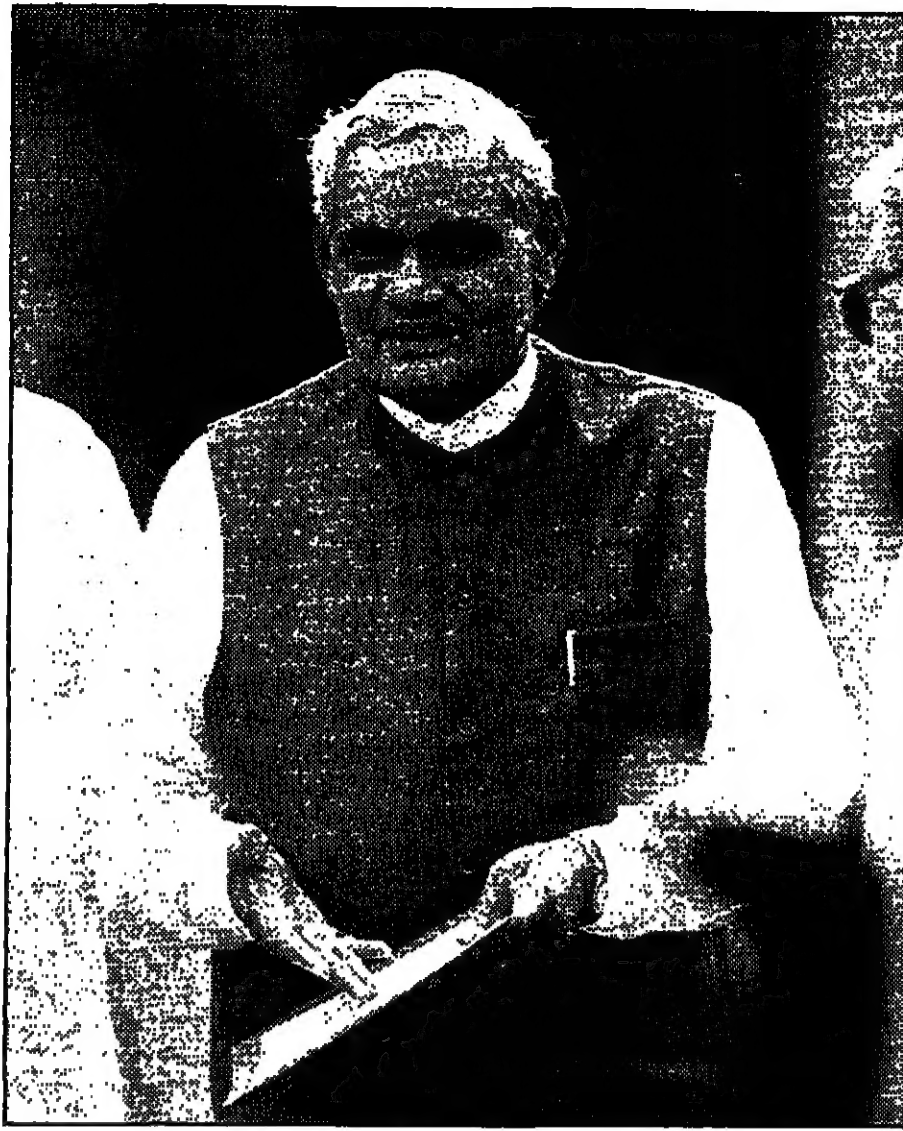
"It's wonderful. I am hearing the news just now and I'm speechless," said Raja Ramanna, former defense minister and former head of India's Atomic Energy Commission.

"I think the government has taken a decisive step to ensure strategic security for India," said Jyotindra Nath Dixit, former foreign secretary and ambassador to Pakistan.

"Secondly, the government has abandoned the accusation of ambiguity and implied that we are a responsible country, but the world should acknowledge our capacities and concerns and that pressure will not work to limit our technological and political capacities."

"You have Pakistan which says it is already a nuclear weapons power... Though efforts are on to normalize relations with China, it is a military power with missile and nuclear weapons capabilities."

"(The tests) will increase his [Vajpayee's] public credibility and infuse India with a great sense of confidence and pride."



Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee points to a report on three nuclear tests India conducted yesterday after a press conference in New Delhi. (AP)

A gravely destabilizing move

LONDON (Reuters) — Security experts and diplomats yesterday expressed astonishment at the news that India had conducted three underground nuclear tests and said the event could help destabilize the subcontinent.

"The question is 'Why now?' and no one knows the answer to that question," said a diplomat at one leading Western embassy here.

Experts said the blasts could trigger similar tests by Pakistan and China, singled out by Indian Foreign Minister George Fernandes as a significant threat to the country.

China, a declared nuclear weapon state, leads India in strategic capability. India has exercised a moratorium on nuclear tests since 1974, but refuses to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In Beijing, the official Xinhua news agency reported the tests, but had no comment. Chinese Foreign Ministry officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Damon Bristow, an Asian security expert from the Royal United Services Institute think tank in London, described the Indian tests as a "fairly serious development."

"There is the issue of the test ban treaty, which India has not signed, and the impact on China's position of no further nuclear tests. The Chinese may now test and that would kill the treaty," he said.

In Washington, US officials said the tests might force the United States to impose sanctions, if sanctions legislation applied to this situation.

Fernandes said last week that India had later focused on the threat from neighboring Pakistan without recognizing the equal danger posed by China.

In the 50 years since independence, India has fought three wars with Pakistan, two of them over Kashmir. Prof. Ian Bellamy, a nuclear expert at Lancaster University in England, said the blast reflected the more nationalist policies of India's new Hindu government.

"The nationalists have long been agitating for India to come out of the nuclear cupboard. This is an important shift to greater nationalism and greater self-assertion in Indian foreign policy," he said.

Pakistan, which has never detonated a nuclear device, is widely thought to possess the capability to build atomic weapons.

"Over the past 20 years, there has been a tacit nuclear arms race with Pakistan, which has always lagged somewhat behind," Bellamy said. "I am very surprised to hear about this. It could be a token round of an intensified nuclear race, and we could see a test from Pakistan in the next 10 days."

Bristow added: "Pakistan could now choose to test unless the Americans press them not to."

Both experts said there is a possibility that the Indian tests were designed to reduce rather than increase tension in the region.

"The tests could be the prelude to a peaceable signal. It might be a bid to come to a nuclear restraint agreement, arguing from a position of strength," said Bellamy.

Bristow echoed his comments, saying it could be better to have two openly-declared nuclear powers in the region.

"It was a brave decision by India, at a time when the economy is weak," he said. "The United Nations or the United States may impose sanctions. India's chances of winning a permanent seat on the Security Council have been set back by five years."

In Islamabad, Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan condemned the tests and called on the rest of the world to do likewise. "It has sucked Pakistan into an arms race," he said. Khan said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the cabinet would meet on the premier's return from an economic summit in Almaty later yesterday to determine Pakistan's further response.

The three tests were carried out one month after Pakistan said it had test-fired a new 1,500-km. "Ghauri" missile to defend itself against India or any other aggressor.

Local news agencies said India had test-fired a short-range surface-to-air missile shortly after the announcement of the tests.

But Bellamy says any talk of a missile race is mere posturing, since the rockets the two sides possess are unreliable and few in number.

"Both sides have aircraft quite capable of delivering even rudimentary nuclear devices," he said.

Danish strike ends after two weeks

COPENHAGEN (Reuters) — Life in Denmark slowly returned to normal yesterday as most of the country's 430,000 private-sector workers, on strike or locked out for two weeks, returned to work, union officials said.

The country's biggest labor dispute in over a decade was called off by the center-left government last week in a move that angered some workers.

Scattered walkouts involving "a couple of thousand" workers occurred around the country yesterday, an official at the Danish

Confederation of Trade Unions (LO) said.

"I reckon that it will be all over tomorrow," he said.

Under Danish law, workers cannot go on strike to protest a wage deal enshrined in law. Ritzau news agency reported walkouts at a major construction project, a shipyard, and a few factories.

The 11-day strike, which was called off at midnight last Thursday, hit manufacturing, construction, and transport hardest. Public sector employees and many

private services, including banking, insurance, and finance, were not involved.

The strike was mainly over a demand for more vacation. The solution pieced together by the government gives all workers two days more holiday per year, and an additional two days to those with young children.

Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS), which cancelled all flights in and out of Denmark during the strike, said yesterday that the flight situation at Copenhagen airport was reasonably good without

any major delays.

Preliminary estimates have put the cost of the strike at roughly \$150 million per day in lost production. Investment bank Paine Webber said that the government may be forced to cut its 1998 gross domestic product growth forecast by half a percentage point to 2.2 percent to reflect the disruption.

An official at the Finance Ministry, which is due to release its next forecast for the Danish economy early next month, declined comment.

Some political analysts have said that the Social Democrat-led coalition's move to stop the strike could trigger a protest vote in a May 28 referendum on the European Union's Amsterdam Treaty.

But two separate polls published at the weekend put support for the treaty at a steady 47% and 46% respectively, and both surveys gave opponents 34%.

Hungarian Right set to unseat socialists

By MICHAEL RODDY

BUDAPEST (Reuters) — Hungary's centrist right leaders laid plans yesterday to unseat the ruling Socialists after a first round vote put them within striking distance of government and brought the extreme Right to parliament.

Sunday's vote in Hungary's complicated two-round system radically changed the political landscape, consolidating the right-wing vote around a handful of parties and undercutting Prime Minister Gyula Horn's Socialists, who remained the strongest party.

"This is a substantial advance for the right wing," said political analyst Tibor Vidos.

Viktor Orban, president of the Fidesz Hungarian Civic Party that came second behind the Socialists, said he would withdraw Fidesz candidates from constituencies where candidates of the third-placed Independent Smallholders did better in round one.

"We have announced that we unilaterally withdraw our candidates," Orban said, revealing the move which would give a boost to right-wing efforts to form a government after the second round of elections on May 24.

Smallholders leader Jozsef Torgyan, clearly delighted at the first round results, said the right wing was now the power to be reckoned with in Hungarian politics.

"The results have shown that the Smallholders have continued to strengthen," he said. "We will sit down with Fidesz and discuss the opportunities for a coalition," he added.

With 99.97 percent of the first round vote counted, the National Election Committee said the Socialists had 32.25%, Fidesz had 28.20% and the Smallholders won 13.76%.

The Socialists' coalition partners, the Alliance of Free Democrats (SZDSZ), slumped to 7.88% while the extreme right-wing MIEP took 5.55%, enough to enter parliament.

The figures include two counties out of the total 20 whose vote will be invalidated and the first round re-run as the turnout was below 50%.

The NEC said it could not at this stage separate out the results of the two counties — Hajdu-Bihar and Szabolcs-Szatmar-Bereg — from the overall vote.

The total turnout was 56.25%.

The NEC said early yesterday it had stopped counting for the night and that official results would be

announced tomorrow.

Under Hungary's complex system, it was impossible to tell exactly how many members of parliament any party would have until after the second round. Some analysts said about 200 of the 386 seats on offer had been filled but an exact breakdown was not available.

A subdued Horn, in a speech televised from his party headquarters, said he thought the Socialists and the Free Democrats who have governed for the past four years could stay in power, despite the Free Democrats' poor showing.

The Socialists had campaigned on their record of reviving Hungary's economy, one of the region's best performers; and of seeking European Union and NATO membership.

Horn expressed dismay at the upsurge of the extreme Right, saying: "Anyone in their right mind would not be happy with the progress of MIEP [Justice and Life]." MIEP's leader Istvan Csurka, a colorful figure on the Hungarian political scene, was expelled from the leadership council of a former ruling party for his radical views.

Csurka's campaign officials could not be reached on Sunday night, but in a debate before the vote he derided the Socialists for having thrown a "big party" for their cronies for the past four

years.

He ended his appearance by giving a controversial two-fingered salute some Hungarians say is reminiscent of the Nazis.

Analysts said the outlook was that neither the Socialists nor Fidesz would gain enough seats through the second round in two weeks to form a government on their own.

"A month ago I would not have expected such a close race," said political analyst Attila Ledenyi. "But then there were the terrorist attacks creating a feeling of a low level of public security and that helped the opposition parties... It will be difficult to put together a government."

Public security was shattered by two bombings of rightist politicians' homes during the campaign, causing extensive damage but no injuries.

The bombings, and bomb scares during Sunday's first round voting, seemed to have hurt the Socialists' attempts to focus attention on the booming economy. The right was the clear beneficiary, with Fidesz surging from a feeble 7.0% vote in the 1994 campaign.

The rightist Smallholders also gained from their 8.8% showing in 1994. The first round vote was held on a balmy, summery day. The turnout of 56.25% was down from 69% in 1994.

Swiss Guard chief calls for calm in Vatican

VATICAN CITY (Reuters) — The new head of the Swiss Guard has told guardsmen that the storm caused by last week's triple killing in the Vatican should not weaken their resolve and dedication as members of the world's smallest army.

Roland Buchs returned from retirement to his former post as head of the 100-member guard after Commandant Alois Estermann was gunned down last week. Estermann was shot dead with his wife by young Swiss guard Cedric Tornay, who then turned the gun on himself in the worst violence in the Vatican in living memory.

Even the release of Buchs's memo by the Vatican press office posed fresh questions. Two versions used the word "incomprehensible" to describe the killings and another used the word "mysterious."

The memo, written in the three languages used in Switzerland — Italian, German and French — was given to guardsmen last week but released by the Vatican press office only yesterday, a week after the shootings.



STATE OF ISRAEL
Ministry of the Interior

Display of Voters Rolls for the Knesset and
Local Authorities

Applications for Transfer to a
Disabled Persons' Voting Station

Any person who, because of physical disability, is unable to vote at the voting station to which he is assigned, may apply to the Minister of the Interior, requesting that his name be transferred to another voting list and to a voting station where arrangements are available for disabled voters.

The locations of these voting stations will be published on bulletin boards in all the local councils. Application forms requesting transfer to a voting station with facilities for the disabled are available at the Population Registry Offices.

An application form will be posted to you, if you request this by phoning 09-767-7249. The completed and signed application form should be sent to the address given in the form. Applications must arrive before June 1, 1998.

Anyone who has submitted such an application in the past need not submit one again.

The Ministry of the Interior - At Your Service



STATE OF ISRAEL
MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

PUBLIC DISPLAY OF THE VOTERS' ROLL
FOR THE KNESSET AND
LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTIONS

Dear Citizen,

1. In accordance with the Knesset Elections Law (Consolidated Version), 1969, and the Local Councils Law (Elections), 1965, the voters' roll has been drawn up and includes the name of every citizen and resident in a local authority whose 18th birthday falls no later than November 10, 1998.

The Voters' Roll will be on display
from May 13, 1998 until May 22, 1998
at the Population Registry Offices

2. If your name does not appear in the roll or if there is an error in the registration of your name or address, a complaint can be submitted at any of the Population Registry Offices until June 1, 1998.

3. Anyone who has submitted a complaint and has received no reply by June 25, 1998 or is dissatisfied with the reply received may submit an appeal until July 5, 1998 to any District Court. No court fees will be required.

Remember to bring your identity card.

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1-800-200133
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02-6290241	03-9666196	06-6508542	07-6340861	08-8569771	08-9214713
02-6290244	03-9666482	07-6234115	07-6737612	08-8569772	08-8569770
03-9666350	03-6722107	07-6340665	07-6340863	08-8569773	09-7677285
03-5785682	06-6508515	07-6234198	07-6340862	08-9214711	09-7677255
03-5785680					

Information will not be given at these numbers at any other time.

The Ministry of the Interior - At Your Service



Free Tibet

Tibetan demonstrators urge the UN to appoint a special investigator to probe human-rights abuses in Tibet at a demonstration in New Delhi yesterday. (AP)

France's May 1968 uprising remembered

By FRANÇOIS RAITBERGER

PARIS — As Paris's trees blossom in the spring, so do memories of "May '68," a cherished episode of France's history that still fascinates the country 30 years later.

The aging leaders of the 1968 student riots endlessly recount in press and television interviews how they nearly brought down President Charles de Gaulle, without really wanting to.

Rank-and-file veterans get bored yawns from their now adult children as they yet again tell how they manned the barricades, ran from police and discovered freedom as the country hovered on the brink of anarchy.

Ahead of the uprising's 30th anniversary, archive pictures of students hurling cobblestones at truncheon-wielding police are all over magazines which nostalgically recall the rioters' slogans: "Imagination rules," "Make love, and again," "Banning is banned."

Germany's Daniel "Danny the Red" Cohn-Bendit, who was expelled from France for leading the riots, is back and being feted in Paris, telling journalists: "This was the first time I made love to history. It was fantastic."

From a demand that male stu-

dents be allowed to visit girls in university residences, the protests snowballed into the most widespread street disorders in France this century, much to the surprise of the government and the protesters.

Students occupied Paris universities, feverishly printing revolutionary statements under portraits of Chinese leader Mao Zedong and Cuba's Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

As de Gaulle condemned "la chienlit" ("the mess"), barricades went up in the Sorbonne University area. Protesters torched the Bourse, cars and a police station, attacking police who beat them wildly with truncheons.

Rioters vainly tried to enlist workers to their cause. The Communist trade union CGT, sensing the government had its back to the wall, declared a general strike, rapidly crippling the country as petrol stations ran dry.

Analysts still hotly argue whether the month-long uprising was a failed revolution or really did change the face of the country.

Some say that there is even more public interest in the riots now than there was 10 or 20 years ago. "Paradoxically, this is a piece of history that grows larger as it

grows older," commentator Jean-Claude Guillebaud said.

"The May '68 generation now rules in politics and the media and celebrates its youth with amused indulgence," he said. "We were naive. We even built barricades in dead-end streets," said Alain Krivine, leader of the small Revolutionary Communist League (LRC).

"We said anything and the opposite. We waved the flags of the Chinese, Cuban and Vietnamese dictatorships in the name of freedom," said Cohn-Bendit, now a member of the European Parliament for Germany's Greens.

VETERANS and analysts are also debating whether France, weary of its politicians' failure to curb unemployment and mounting poverty, is ripe for another bout of unrest.

Krivine believes it is. "What I gathered from May '68 was that rebellion is possible," he said.

But he conceded that an ideal was now lacking: "You fight for something, not against something." However, many see unemployment, which hits young people hardest, as an argument against unrest, with students too busy studying — in order to secure a

good job — to be tempted by rebellion.

A recent opinion poll said 54 percent of today's French youth would not have wanted to be involved in the 1968 riots.

Career, money and personal happiness top their list of targets. Equality, justice and peace, the values preached by rebel students from Paris to the US in 1968, lag far behind.

Fresh disclosures keep emerging on mysterious episodes during the riots, such as de Gaulle's still unexplained day trip to the French army base of Baden Baden in Germany on May 29.

Analysts have debated for years if a discouraged de Gaulle had decided to step down or was seeking army support to crush the uprising.

The late Jacques Foccart, a close aide of de Gaulle, said in a book published a few months after he died that de Gaulle had written a letter of resignation before flying to Germany.

The French commander in Baden Baden, General Jacques Massu, convinced him to change his mind, Foccart wrote.

The magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur* said then-CIA director Richard Helms told US presi-

dent Lyndon Johnson in a confidential report that France was heading for civil war.

"Whatever the short-term outcome, France faces a troubled period and even civil war," Helms was quoted as writing on May 30 — the very day which saw the beginning of the end of the uprising.

On that day, hundreds of thousands marched on the Champs Elysees Avenue to back the government. De Gaulle immediately called a snap parliamentary election.

The student rebellion crumbled as fast as it had grown.

Trade unions won big pay hikes and called off a general strike that had crippled the country for more than two weeks.

The elections produced a huge majority for the government. It was all over.

So what was it in the end? "The last great collective dream," sociologist Gilles Lipovetsky said.

"Both a failure and a success," he said. "As a political movement it had no future, but it triggered or boosted a tidal wave of cultural liberalism."

Cohn-Bendit's verdict: "We won on the social and cultural front. Politically, we lost." (Reuters)

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Mad about Noel Coward



By David Brinn

Twentieth Century Blues, The Songs of Noel Coward is the brainchild of Pet Shop Boys founder Neil Tennant; it benefits Red Hot, the AIDS research foundation.

VERSION 2.0
Garbage (Red Artist)

PERFECT NIGHT IN LONDON
Lou Reed (Red Artist)

Ferry, Bred and his own Pet Shop Boys.

Paul McCartney's voice is perfectly suited for the crooning "Room With a View." Marianne Faithfull's "Mad about the Boy" hasn't sounded so clear-voiced since "A Pearly Gate" and Tennant's "Sail Away" into a bouncy Pet Shop Boys song. Entertaining and educational, *Twentieth Century Blues* doesn't attempt to be a contemporary disc. Each artist including Elton John, Sting and Robbie Williams, submerges his own personality to rely on Coward's strong melodies and sense of class to carry the weight, which it does like a feather in the breeze.

GARBAGE is probably the most unlikely success story of the late 1990s. And it appears to be just gaining steam. Stellar alternative American producer and sometime drummer Butch Vig, who made his mark with Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins, recruited two college mates and pedestrian Scottish pop singer Shirley Manson.

The result was one of the biggest hits of 1995 and a long list of awards and kudos for the band's synthesis of rock, pop and electronics, a veritable garbage dump of swell sounds.

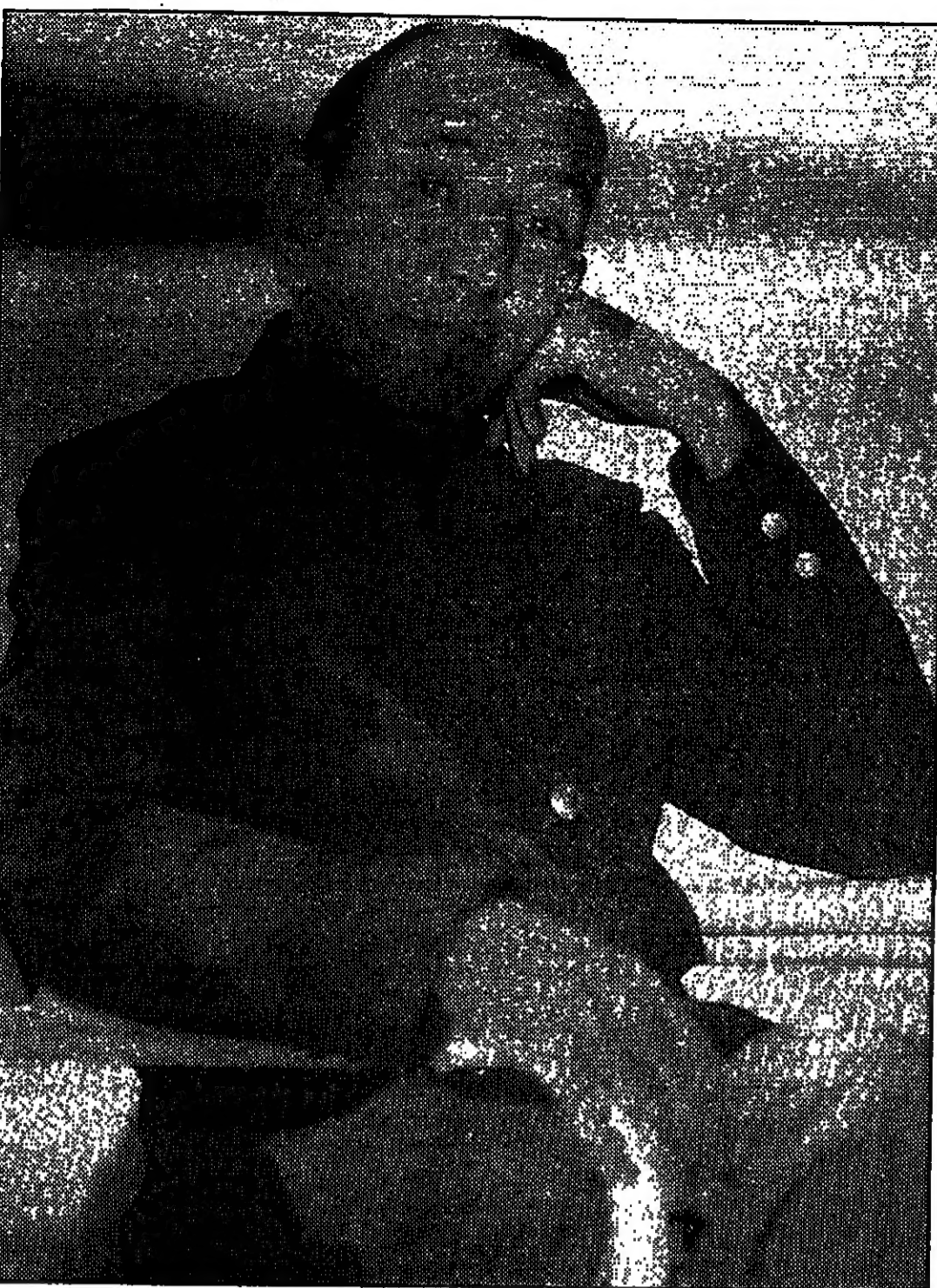
On *Version 2.0*, Garbage defies the sophomore jinx with a vengeance. Despite the slickness, manufactured quality – or maybe because of it – Garbage is a pop band to be reckoned with. Conjur up images of Blondie, circa 1978, Manson (her real name, not a publicity ploy) and company write killer off-kilter pop songs, inject them with samples galore and perform them with verve and panache.

Call it Abba with a black leather fetish. Rock purists may dismiss them for their unabashed commercial intent, but the band subverts the pop structure with loads of weirdness. The polarity between Vig and Manson provides the delicate tension that pushes *Version 2.0* past the point of pop into the realm of art.

LOU Reed had just gotten a new acoustic guitar and amplifier and was so excited by its bell-like sound, he assembled longtime sidemen and gave a concert at companion Laurie Anderson's Meltdown Festival last July.

The recorded results, *Perfect Night in London*, are impressive, and devoted Reed fans will find plenty to appreciate among the 15 famous and obscure selections the "godfather of punk" performs in a semi-plugged atmosphere.

Ranging from earlier classics like "Coney Island Baby" and "Perfect Day," which has become a huge hit here in its recent British charity version, to later selections like "Dirty Blvd." and "Busload of Faith," Reed and band take it one tentative step at a time.



A touch of class: Noel Coward inspires today's pop generation.

the material, which the droll, intense Reed is unwilling to light. His guitar does sound great,

though, just like he promised. Hearing a legend play a cross-section of his oeuvre even without his

customary abandon is still a treat, even if it isn't quite a perfect night.

Creating a dance theater-of-the-absurd

Just 30 spectators at a time are seated in stage at the Suzanne Dellal Center and are able to experience Ruth Ziv Eyal's *Mangroosim* without barriers.

MANGROOSIM
Ruth Ziv Eyal
Suzanne Dellal Center
April 23

usual embarrassment one experiences invading the performer's space. Most of Ziv Eyal's works deal

DANCE REVIEW

with inner journeys of a ritualistic nature, and often carry surrealistic overtones.

Here she had created a dance theater of the absurd, obviously influenced by playwrights like Samuel Beckett and Eugene Ionesco.

Dancer Avital Izhar-Meizlin creates a magic effect in strange surroundings, as she plays with a few simple objects.

purpose. As she ends the dance she has become a whirling white angel, a free spirit that finally rests with a stone on its chest.

Ziv Eyal, one of the more talented creators on the local dance scene, is still on the fringe, despite her 25 years of work. Her artistic choices are meticulous and restrained; her great sense of humor hinted at rather than played up.

Avital is an excellent choice for the part. She is a captivating performer and a warm actress, with a perfect sense of timing.

The scene where she tastes, bites, munches and crunches, and seemingly swallows pebbles is a real masterpiece.

Fundamental truths in 'Messiah'

By MICHAEL AIZENSTADT

There are several ways to ensure a sellout in our concert halls in general and at the Israel Festival in particular. But the *Messiah* is the best of all. Schedule Handel's larger-than-life oratorio and you are bound to score. When it is performed (June 9 in Tel Aviv, June 10 in Jerusalem) by Trevor Pinnock and his English Consort in their Israeli debut, the excitement is even greater.

Pinnock recently conducted a choir of 450, which he admits is "the opposite of what I usually do. But it's such a wonderful piece, it can work in any form."

The Festival concerts will be much smaller (26 choristers and 26 musicians), but Pinnock says "the smaller forces do not affect the outcome. It all depends on the com-

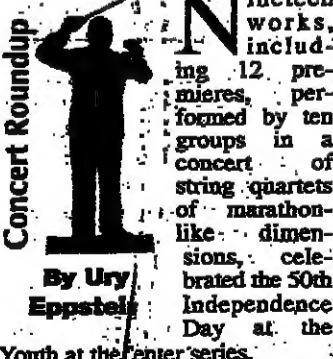
mitment behind the performance."

The English Consort is one of the more established early music ensembles in the world. According to Pinnock, playing so-called "old instruments" is beneficial, as one "can play to the limit – go for the body and soul of the music. But, he adds, *Messiah* is such a great piece, you can play it to great effect on any kind of instrument."

Pinnock attributes *Messiah*'s enduring popularity, to the "tremendous unity of the music. It's inspired music which makes sense to people of all faiths and backgrounds. It has a fundamental truth that the audience and the performers experience."

As for the "right" style of playing *Messiah*, Pinnock says "Handel changed it in every performance, so there's no reason not to do the same today."

A marathon of string quartets



By Ury Eppelshteyn

Youth at the Center series. Quality seems to be a minor consideration in such marathons where the motto "more the better" prevails. The best performance of a group that already had appeared with the same work at the same venue earlier in the same week was also a time consumer rather than a bonus.

STRING QUARTETS
Independence Day Marathon
Youth at the Center Series
Mikhael Shalev
May 1

The premieres of Israeli folk song arrangements, too, could profitably have been trimmed by separating the wheat from the chaff. Among the folklorist arrangements, Sergiu Nara's highly personal "Reflections on Ze'ira's 'No Roses'" was particularly noteworthy. Gad Avrahami's imaginative arrangement of Adnon's "Shdeman" (My friend

of grain) and Hagar Kadima's sensitive version of Zahir's "Bif'at ha-kfar" (At the village edge) also attracted more than average attention.

The loving care bestowed by some of the young musicians in performing local works, deserves special praise. The IDF Education Corps String Quartet (made up of Guy Figer, Nimrod Rosler, Galia Hui, Ira Givoli) delved deep into an interpretation that did full justice to Mordechai Seter's polyphonically intricate and emotionally charged *Ricercar*. The Jerusalem Quartet (Alexander Pavlovsky, Sergei Bresler, Amihai Gross and Kyril Zlotnikov) injected life and enthusiasm into Menahem Waisenberg's meticulously calculated *Between the Sacred and the Secular*.

Brahms's Quartet in C minor sounded exuberant, fresh and intensely involved as played by the Aviv Quartet (Sergei Ostrovsky, Evgenia Epstein, Shuli Vatterman and Iris Yonker).

ONE could see the musicians playing at one's left while hearing the sounds coming from the right – from the amateurishly positioned amplifying system's loudspeakers – in the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's concert entitled *Renewal*, conducted by Zubin Mehta, in commemoration of the Holocaust and in celebration of the 50th Independence Day.

Commenting on the sound of the solo in Brahms's Violin Concerto would be unfair to Maxim

Vengerov. Rather than his violinist one could hear was the amplifiers irritatingly distorted in balance and tone quality.

Despite these adverse circumstances, there was an all around

IPO RENEWAL CONCERT
Ramat Gan Chamber Choir
Ankor Children's Choir
Yeh Vashem
May 4

brilliance, particularly in the release of energies, well chosen tempi and emotional intensity.

Noam Sheriff, in his *Revival of the Dead*, selects his musical elements more eclectically than inventively; from a wide range of frequently identifiable sources: from shofar sounds to klezmer motifs, cantorial music and military marches. All these are calculated to evoke highly charged associations, and skillfully manipulated to create moods of nostalgia, sentimentality, tragedy, joy and optimism.

They address the audience's sensibilities – not necessarily sensitivities – by musical stimuli intended to arouse immediate emotional responses. This turbulence concludes with appropriate optimism, sending the dutifully elated audience home with an angelic-sounding hallelujah, effectively intoned by an unfailingly cute children's choir.

ON his first visit to Israel Czech Petr Eben, one of the most out-

standing contemporary European composers, performed some of his own works together with local musicians.

Eben's *Labyrinth of the World and the Paradise of the Heart* is a monumental work consisting of improvised organ interludes, alternating with narrations of the text by Jan Komenky, a Czech 17th century philosopher, read by Marek Eben. The interludes contrast with each other in mood, sonorities, patterns and motifs. The work is long, but the musical ideas never repeat themselves. They follow each other in an enchanting, immensely imaginative, highly personal flow of incessantly changing tone colors, registers, melodic and rhythmic patterns, chordal and linear structures.

The transition from earthbound, profoundly depressing human experiences to final hope and

WORKS BY PETR EBEN
Dormition Abbey
May 5

redemption, amounts to a breathtaking spiritual musical journey. Eben's performance of the work was preceded by some of his earlier compositions: *Moto osinava* (1958), exploring some of the organ's remotest registers, charmingly played by Elisabeth Roloff, joined by alto Mira Zakai in a fascinating rendition of *Ruth's Song* (1970), and by trumpeter Ilan Eshed in *The Green Window* (1976), inspired by Marc Chagall.

NEWS

of the muse

Phase II of Batsheva's 'Anaphase'

In what they call "identification with cultural and creative freedom" following the debacle at *Jubilee Bells*, the Jerusalem Foundation (JF) and the Doron Educational Foundation, together with the International Convention Center in Jerusalem (ICC), are sponsoring a special performance of the controversial dance piece *Anaphase* by the Batsheva Dance Company at the ICC on July 4. The still-effervescent public outcry was sparked by Batsheva's refusal to perform at the Independence Day event.

Explaining their position, JF head Ruth Heshin said, "The establishment's attack on cultural freedom necessitates an attempt by independent bodies to balance the picture." Foundation subsidies will enable the sale of tickets at reduced prices, and some 1,000 will be sold for only NIS 40 to people living in the city's poor neighborhoods.

JF spokesman Arnon Beeri said, "This is not a political act. We are taking a position in what has become a public debate. We have done this in the past and will continue to do so." Recently, the JF sponsored reduced-rate tickets to a Yuval Banai concert as part of a joint secular-religious youth project.

Helen Koye

Tune in to Channel 2 on-line

Channel 2 has joined the global village with its own Internet Web site inaugurated last week. The site, at www.channel2.co.il, boasts of being interactive and dynamic, in tune with its public. Pages at the site include information about Channel 2 TV and its activities; a television programming schedule up to two weeks in advance; radio information; ratings lists; access to the spokeswoman and ombudsman of the network, as well as links to the various franchise holders.

At present the site is Hebrew only, though they promise to add English pages next month.

Elana Chipman

Multimedia 'Carmen' comes to Tel Aviv

Bizet's *Carmen* is an opera staple. Christina Hoyos danced the role of the world's most famous Spanish miss in Antonio Gades's version. Now the Spanish company La Cuedra de Sevilla is bringing its *Carmen*, starring virtuoso flamenco artist Lalo Tajada, to the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center for six performances, starting June 12.

Director Salvador Tavora adapted Prosper Merimee's passionate and tragic love story into a multimedia presentation involving theater and the authentic music of Andalusia and flamenco, the climax of which is a pas de deux between a dancer and a horse.

Tavora created the company in 1971 to contest the folklore trend in Andalusian culture which prevailed during the Franco dictatorship. Since then, the company has performed his work in some 27 countries.

Tavora's work has won him the National Arts Gold Medal and the Andalusian Theater Prize among others.

Helen Koye

Documentaries abound at Jewish film festivals

Four award-winning documentaries funded by the bustling New Foundation for Cinema and Television will be shown at the 4th Berlin Jewish Film Festival next month. They are Dan Waxman's *Song of the Galilee*, Emil Habibi's *I Stayed in Haifa* by Dalia Karpel; Ran Carmeli's *Mother's First Olympics*; and *The Last Transfer* by Ilana Tzur.

Tzur's film, which is about Holocaust survivors confined to a mental institution, has also been invited to the Toronto Jewish Film Festival screening this week.

Helen Koye

Israeli conductor to head Opera North in UK

US-born Israeli conductor Steven Sloane will become the music director of Britain's Opera North in Leeds from August 1999, but he has already made his debut on the podium with Prokofiev's *Eugene Onegin* which opened there on Saturday. He'll also conduct *The Human Voice* next January. A Los Angeles native, Sloane studied viola and musicology at the University of California and conducted with Gary Bertini and the late Eugene Ormandy among others.

He immigrated in 1981 and managed to conduct all of the country's major orchestras in short order. He started his opera career at Frankfurt in 1988 and since then, his career has kept him abroad. Sloane was recently appointed musical director of the prestigious Spoleto Festival in the US.

Helen Koye

Two for the price of one

Jerusalem choreographers Iris Goren and Yael Shani are combining resources to put on a joint performance of their new works at Tel Aviv's ZOA House on May 12 and 28. Goren's Jerusalem-based company, Opus, presents *Dream Seal*, a piece which explores secrets.

Shani's dance language combines contemporary dance with tai chi. Her Adam-Ma company presents *Night Doves*, a dance in seven sections each based on a haiku, the three-line, 17-syllable Japanese poetry form.

Helen Koye

KATHLEEN BATTLE

ROGER VIGNOLES, PIANO

The renowned soprano in a one time performance

ISRAEL FESTIVAL, JERUSALEM

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Second ticket free for 2,500 to 6,500 sheq. Details at ticket agencies.

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The other security threat

To Israelis, "security" has historically related to the threat from foreign armies and terrorists. But as the latest crime statistics show, security has taken on a more conventional meaning, demanding a concerted response.

There have been 68 murders so far this year (January to May) — a nearly 50 percent increase from the same period last year.

A sense of urgency, however, seems yet to have penetrated the Internal Security Ministry. For months, Minister Avigdor Kahalani and Police Insp.-Gen. Yehuda Wilk have been squabbling over who will be the new head of police intelligence. In the meantime, the recently-released State Comptroller's Report severely criticized police intelligence operations, and this critical aspect of crime-fighting continues to founder.

Incredibly, the comptroller found that there is no comprehensive system for collecting intelligence information on criminals and crime patterns. As a result of this gaping hole — which should not even be considered "intelligence," but decent record-keeping — the police have had trouble detecting the development of new crime patterns before they become established and more difficult to combat.

In addition, the comptroller found that many crimes could have been solved sooner had intelligence been shared properly. A check of two different police districts found that even when information did seem to be available, it was not utilized effectively.

It is, of course, common for police forces to be understaffed, overworked, and in need of more resources. In Israel, the task of crime-fighting is complicated by the additional mission of protecting against terrorism. The disparate demands on the police force are just another reason, however, that the police must become more organized and more efficient, and keep up with the latest crime-fighting techniques.

The rising tide of crime is not waiting for the police leadership to step up to the challenge. Though high-profile cases, such as last week's murder of the Prison Service's chief medical officer, Dr. Ya'acov Zigelboim, and the attempted murder of Ramat Amudim gang leader Roni Harari in the shooting spree at a Givatayim cafe, make the headlines, the problem is much broader. The last few years have witnessed a steep rise in violent crime.

So far, the rise in crime may not be felt by

many people in their neighborhoods, nor has it led to a generally reduced feeling of security. We still enjoy a crime rate that would be the envy of many American and European cities. But we cannot afford to take this for granted.

Between 1960 and 1996, violent crime in the United States rose from 160 crimes per 100,000 persons to 634 — nearly a fourfold increase. Israel's levels of violent crime are considerably lower, but also much higher than they were a few decades ago. We have no reason to think we are immune to the trends that have plagued other democracies. Only now, after crime has exacted a tremendous toll in both lives and in residents' way of life, have places such as New York turned the corner on crime.

New York Governor George Pataki, a recent visitor to Israel, attributed the change to new get-tough policies such as no parole for repeat or violent felons. He explained: "We have a policy toward crime that is not an overwhelmingly complex or philosophical one — it is very simple — a violent criminal behind bars cannot commit another violent crime."

Israel, by contrast, does not have particularly tough sentencing practices, and plans to allow for the pardon of more criminals as part of the jubilee celebrations. Even if the wave of pardons turns out to be more limited than originally expected, it is clear that we have not yet faced the reality of the crime problem, nor have we taken steps to turn back the tide of crime.

As other countries know well from experience, it is much harder to bring down high levels of crime once they become established. The illusion that violent crime will stay confined to gang wars that do not involve the general public will likely soon be shattered. We cannot afford to wait until that happens. Even now, it will take a multi-pronged effort to halt the trends, let alone reverse them.

Israel's police are spread too thinly; resources must be brought from both within and without to increase the focus on fighting violent crime. The justice system must also step up to the challenge. Tougher sentencing and parole policies, that violent crime will not be tolerated. Rehabilitation programs, especially those dealing with domestic violence and drug addiction, are critical and deserve further support, but they cannot substitute for bolstering deterrents against crime.

It would be a tragedy if, just as the external security threats are being addressed, a different security problem takes their place.



NEERCO 98

What the future holds

Whether one regards Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo's announcement of his candidacy for the premiership as dramatic or obvious; whether he will succeed in redrawing the map of Israeli politics or not — one thing is certain: He has sharply defined the issues over which the next election campaign will be fought.

Despite his uninspiring record as mayor, non-achievement has clearly not prevented Milo from seeking still higher office — the highest in the land.

The reason for this is not hard to find: indeed, Milo highlighted it as the central plank in his future platform.

Milo is perceived as a staunch defender of the rights and demands of the secular majority of Israelis, against the threat of growing ultra-Orthodox influence on Israeli social life and of right-wing nationalist influence on Israeli political, military and diplomatic policies.

In other words, Milo has announced that he is going to run as the candidate of Greater Tel Aviv, which for these purposes, means the area from Netanya/Ra'anana to Rehovot/Yavne. This is the secular heartland of the country where, despite the facts of demography, the secular are still the majority of the population, but steadily less so) and economics (they have the overwhelming share of national wealth), people feel threatened, and hence frightened.

That feeling, and Milo's attempt to capitalize on it, make perfectly good sense in the context of the growing tribalization of Israeli society. True, Meretz already represents this constituency, but that party's ardent espousal of the Palestinian cause makes many Israelis uneasy.

For, strange as it may seem to some, not all secularists are

PINCHAS LANDAU

extreme left-wingers on the peace process/ Palestinian/ Arab issue. The erstwhile success of Rafael Eitan's Tsomet party indicates that there is a real constituency of people who loathe haredim and also despise Arabs.

Tsomet is washed up now, but its base of support is as large as, if not larger than, it was when it captured eight seats in 1992.

Milo, the former Likudnik who

The next election, and probably the one after, will center on the secular backlash to the haredim and NRP successes of the last 10-20 years

can project an image of realism toward the peace process, can say to these people, "We want peace and we recognize Palestinian realities, but we remain Israeli patriots (i.e., we don't like Arab rule)." In other words, Milo progresses secular Israelis the acceptable face of the Likud, unlike Netanyahu and David Levy, who represent the unacceptable faces. It might just work — particularly if some of the country's big money bags ante up for Milo's campaign, and if he can project this image and message to the Russian immigrant constituency, which apparently has little liking for either Labor or Meretz.

IN any event, Milo's candidacy confirms that the key issue of Israeli politics is no longer what

will become of the territories, but rather what will become of Israel itself. Intelligent visitors have already identified this change, but many Israelis have not yet come to grips with what it means. Given the unpleasant implications, this is understandable, but nonetheless unavoidable.

The next election, and probably the one after, will center on the secular backlash to the haredim and NRP successes of the last 10-20 years. The more immediate and intense campaign is likely to be conducted against the haredim, who will now pay the price for creating a parasitical society, entirely dependent on the Zionist welfare state. The cost of supporting them has triggered a classic taxpayers revolt.

In essence, the secular complaints against the haredim are no different from those of middle-class taxpayers in many countries against groups perceived to be sponging off the state budget through welfare scams.

But, unlike welfare scabs in other countries, the haredim don't merely keep demanding more money, they also bite the hand that feeds them, metaphorically and — in secular eyes — actually. The combination of social and religious issues with economic ones therefore makes for a particularly potent brew.

Given the current tendency on all sides to make political capital from the widening splits within Israeli society, the prospects are for worsening polarization and an intensified struggle for power over the organs of state control and budgets.

Whether these trends will reverse course before they irreparably rip the country's social fabric will determine the course, if not the continued existence, of the Jewish state in its sixth and seventh decades.

Ugly forces

ISI LEBLER

In the past two weeks, the already-difficult relationship between Israel's religious and non-observant sectors has escalated to a new and alarming level.

The haredi deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Haim Mila, yesterday served notice that under no circumstances would his group permit Jerusalem's host, next year's most popular religious festival — Eurovision — because of the role in Israel's victory of its transsexual, Dana International. The NRP's Shaul Yablon promptly repudiated Mila.

Earlier, Deputy Minister Meir Porush's insensitivity in accepting the role of government representative at a ceremony marking Remembrance Day for the Fallen of Israel's Wars prompted understandable outrage by bereaved parents. The repeated statements by various haredi spokesmen that it was a Jewish sin to stand in silence together with the nation to honor the fallen heightened tensions further.

But there is no doubt that the first prize for promoting intolerance should be awarded to those who exploited the Jubilee Bels debacle.

No doubt the enormous outrage generated emanated from a long pent-up and understandable frustration with haredi political tactics, policies and pressures. This explains why so many jumped on the bandwagon and saw an opportunity to hit back at the enemies in the religious world.

Thus Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo was applauded when he went over the top to claim that this event represented one of the greatest disasters in the state's cultural history.

Sensing the growing hatred of religious Jews, he used the issue to launch himself on the national scene with a new party which he claimed would be a bridge-builder to heal divisions. Talk about double speak!

Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg — near regarded as a great contributor to improving relations between religious and non-observant Israelis — outdid himself with an inflammatory outburst of vituperation.

Emphasizing that he was wearing a kippa, Burg cried that the Batsheva incident was the beginning of a religious civil war, alleging that it was merely a continuation of the struggle that was initiated with the bullet shot by Yitzhak Rabin's assassin.

By any standard, this was a remarkable statement from the head of an organization purportedly striving to unite the Jewish people.

To their credit, both President Ezer Weizman and Labor leader Ehud Barak distanced themselves from the incitement against the religious community by the likes of Burg.

THE moment cries out for enlightened leadership. Israel faces a nightmare if secular and religious extremists hijack a debate which needs sensitivity, understanding, tolerance and knowing when to avoid saying the first thing that comes to mind.

Leaders must take extra care not to demonize all religious Jews, to restrict their justifiable criticisms against the specific elements who seek to impose their views by anti-democratic means, and to recognize the enormous dangers in fanning prejudice and hatred.

When demonstrators used the epithet "dirty Jews" they hurled abuse at NRP minister Yitzhak Levy, who was never indirectly involved with it. Madness, we were witness to a chilling indicator of the ugly forces that an emotional, no-holds-barred, offensive campaign against religious Jews could unleash.

Such a campaign has real parallels with the antisemitism and demagoguery from which Jews suffered for 2,000 years in the Diaspora.

If the "silent majority" of Israelis who want accommodation do not call halt to the inflammatory and expedient attacks by political leaders, we will be heading for disaster, even a civil war, with far greater dangers to our future than the current problems with the Palestinians and the Arab world.

Perhaps President Weizman should invite the prime minister and the Labor leader to join him in a bipartisan conference designed to initiate a process of reconciliation involving the main centrist religious and non-observant groups.

Perhaps such a process could lead to a bipartisan approach to Ehud Barak's initiative in calling for a review of the outrageous yeshiva draft exemption racket, which the government has been forced to face in view of rising public indignation. This and other similar issues could be reviewed by such a commission of moderates from both camps in a civilized and unemotional manner. We must try to breathe the deeply divided House of Israel now, before it is too late.

The writer is chairman of the governing board of the World Jewish Congress.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GAY FAMILY VALUES

Sir, — I am offended by David Bedein's letter "Dana International," yesterday. I am an Israeli, I'm traditional, national-religious, family-oriented, a Herutnik; supporting secular as well as religious culture. I'm also openly and unabashedly gay.

When Gali Atari won with "Hallelujah," I celebrated. And when Dana International won with "Diva," I celebrated as well. So did my mother.

Bedein states that "family values" belong in the context of heterosexual family relations." Not so. Family values belong in the context of family relations, inclusive rather than exclusive.

When my late father was sick in Sha'are Zedek for almost two months before his death last year, I spent most of each day with him, feeding him, changing him, etc., along with my mother and siblings.

After his death, I was very careful to observe the mourning regulations, the least of which cover saying Kaddish, just as the rest of the family did. I also hand-stitched seven Torah covers in his memory. If these are not "family values," I don't know what are.

It's my impression that Bedein has been spending too much time with the American Christian fundamentalists he recruits to support Israel. They tend to be exclusive rather than inclusive.

If he were to spend more time with the average Israeli — religious, traditional, secular — he'd find that we are not clones of US Southern Baptists, but Jews, embracing life. Viva Diva! Viva Israel!

JOEY SILVER

Jerusalem

LAG BA'OMER

Sir, — It's the time of year when children visit building sites to collect wood for their Lag Ba'omer bonfires. Since we live in a new housing development, hordes of children replete with hijacked supermarket trolleys have descended on us in recent weeks.

My nine-year-old son collected his own wood but he committed the major error of leaving it just outside, rather than inside our front gate. The other afternoon, he saw a group of children, all aged about nine, scoop all "his" wood up and add it to their already full trolleys. He went outside to tell them that he had carefully been collecting it over the previous fortnight. A tiny girl told him that she had come the day before and she hadn't seen any wood there at all.

At this point I intervened and corroborated my son's story. The same girl then told me in no uncertain terms that she did not believe us, and since the wood was outside our house, it was up for grabs.

I suggested a compromise: Give my son some of what they had collected and take the rest. They

grudgingly took out six tiny pieces of wood, which still left them with two large trolley loads, and continued their aggressive tirade at the injustice of it all.

From this we learn that Lag Ba'omer wood must be kept inside your property, if not under armed guard. And how on earth are Israeli kids being brought up if a group of them could shout at another human being for any reason, let alone at an adult, over something as trivial as wood?

I suppose I'm not really surprised, given the fact that they regularly observe plenty of disrespectful and boorish behavior from the upper echelons of our society downwards. In the main, our children grow up with few parameters, which provides them with an idyllically free childhood. Having witnessed the nine-year-old thugs outside my house this week, I think we need to guard against that freedom, producing violent adults of the future.

Ra'anana.

MARION LEBOR

WRONG PRIORITIES

Sir, — It goes without doubt we have reached a nonsensical situation if a group of self-appointed obscurantists tries to prescribe to all of us what is and is not allowed in our cultural life.

But on seeing the heated reaction of several citizens, there arises a question: Are all these people who shout and demonstrate really concerned about the religious coercion — or are they just upset about being deprived of their entertainment?

If Israeli Jews, including soldiers, are discriminated against because their mothers contain a few drops of non-Jewish blood — does anybody go out to demonstrate?

Are our people concerned about this or that dance, while they don't give a damn for the welfare of a few descendants of alleged shiks?

MICHAEL NOACH

BeerSheva.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On May 12, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported that the Nazi campaign for the destruction by fire of Jewish books continued throughout Germany. Huge parades with torchlight were held and Jewish booksellers were forced to surrender all books by the condemned authors. The entire property of the German Socialist

Party and Trade Unions was confiscated.

50 years ago: On May 12, 1948, *The Palestine Post* reported that King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan liquidated the Arab Higher Committee, telling its members that they had brought misery to the entire people of Palestine. The Jerusalem-Tel Aviv road was

freed from another menace when the Arab village of Beit Mahsir, used as a base for attacks on traffic, fell into Hagana hands after it had been shelled. There were still over 3,000 heavily armed Arab Legionnaires in the country, the Jewish Agency reported.

Alexander Zvielli

1500000

A Holocaust paper trail to nowhere?

Following an American lawsuit, the Italian insurer Generali has now assembled and computerized its Holocaust-era files. But as Marilyn Henry discovers, the archive is bound to disappoint numerous claimants

Down in the industrial zone by the Adriatic port of Trieste sits a warehouse building that has taken on an aura of mystery.

It is there that the Italian insurer Assicurazioni Generali stores its Holocaust-era files — along with its personnel records, office supplies and bottles of wine.

The old binders came from Prague and Poland and other parts east.

Generali, having found the documents that were all but forgotten in its nondescript warehouse, now calls the trove its "legacy archive," and has invited Yad Vashem in for a look.

The archive might provide "valuable insights into the communities who were insured by the company," Gianfranco Guty, the insurance company's managing director, said last year. "It might enable survivors or descendants to track relatives and, in perhaps rescuing the identities of some from the devastation they suffered, help further establish the true scope of the Holocaust."

Generali's files may solve part of the puzzling picture of how Eastern European Jews once saved for their futures or put money aside for their heirs.

However, the archive is bound to disappoint numerous claimants who are relying on the documents to press Generali to honor old war-era insurance policies. The existing documents, for example, may confirm the past existence of a policy from Eastern Europe but may not resolve its fate.

When the delegation from Jerusalem arrives in Trieste sometime this month, it may find itself on an unsatisfying scavenger hunt:

THE BID to recover Holocaust-era insurance policies, written by German, Swiss and Italian companies, built into public view last spring, one year after a comparable effort to recover dormant and unclaimed Jewish assets in Swiss banks.

Claimants and their advocates argued that Swiss banks were hoarding Jewish assets that had been deposited in Switzerland for safekeeping. But their efforts to document those accounts were stymied by the official secrecy that shrouds the Swiss banking industry.

This, however, was not the case with Generali's archive. Although published reports have said Generali refuses to open its archive, its materials were available to *The Jerusalem Post* during a recent visit to the Trieste warehouse, a stone's throw from Slovenia.

Rows of binders were neatly lined up, creating a cache of at least 200,000 partial files for policies written in Central and Eastern Europe and dating from the 1920s, when Generali was thriving with business in the states that succeeded the Hapsburg Empire.

The files are only fragments, says Generali's vice director-general Guido Pastori. Each subsidiary in the far-flung company was responsible for its own records, including the complete documentation of insurance policies. The subsidiary, in turn, forwarded to the head office so-called "water copies," not the actual policies.

These documents — which are carbon-like copies on onion-skin paper — were used by Generali's central actuarial department to calculate the reserves required for the company. They provide basic information about an individual policy, including the client's name, date of birth, where the policy was issued, the policy number, the original premium and the amount of the annuity or insurance. Generali was pushed to resurrect the lives of these old policies after a class-action suit filed a year ago in federal court in New York charged more than a dozen European insurers with failing to honor Holocaust-era insurance policies.

However, the policies are arranged in the archive by number, not name. It took Generali five months to enter data from hundreds of thousands of water-copies into the computerized data base that would enable it to search for old clients by name.

The idea is for policyholders or heirs to have what the company called "a dedicated documentary facility through which they can research relationships to Generali."

For the time being, the data base — the "legacy archive" — is used simply for tracking. When Generali announced its introduc-

tion in June 1997, managing director Guty said the archive would be "a tremendous resource" for historical research.

Despite the archive's potential, there have as yet been no analyses of the data. For instance, there are no aggregate statistics summarizing the extent of insurance coverage, whether it was equally popular in the city and the shtetl. Nor is there information about the different types of policies, which could point to the extent of private Jewish businesses, and could yield information about Central European Jewry's use of annuities. (These functioned as savings plans, with a limited life span, and could provide data about Jewish wealth before the war.)

Indeed, there is no certain way to identify Generali's Jewish policyholders, although the company is known to have had a great deal of Jewish business. It was considered a "Jewish" company whose sales agents saturated the major Jewish population centers before the war.

The company says that while it cannot estimate its share of the Jewish insurance market, it dismisses as exaggerated published reports that it wrote 80 percent of the Jewish policies.

Most of the inquiries to Generali are attempts to track individual policies. So far, about 50 percent of the searches have turned up nothing in the data base. Some 80 percent of the inquiries from the US are, one Generali attorney said, "fishing expeditions."

"One man sent a chart with 100 names, [saying] 'This is my family tree. Do you have any policies?' [I told him] 'We're checking.'"

THERE ARE many reasons for a search, some up empty, even if a policy once existed. There may be multiple spellings of names, or unusual transliterations. Alternatively, there are cases in which a family name is so common that it yields dozens — and occasionally, hundreds — of possibilities. In that case, claimants need the date of birth, which heirs may not have.

However, even a successful match, linking a name to a policy number, is only the first step in an arduous process. The water copy, in essence, is a snapshot of a policy at a certain moment. It does not indicate if the premiums were maintained, or if the policy was redeemed or surrendered.

"The policy has its own life," Pastori said.

In addition to the New York class action suit, Generali faces another suit, recently filed in California.

The family of a Holocaust victim, Moshe "Mor" Stern of Uzhgorod, Hungary, is seeking \$135 million in damages. Insurance regulators across the US have also threatened to suspend the insurers' American licenses if they failed to pay claims.

Last month, insurance regulators, Jewish groups and four major insurers, including Generali and the German company Allianz, agreed to establish an international commission to resolve Holocaust-era insurance claims.

LUCIO BRUNO, the retired head of Generali's life insurance department, is one of the few available company veterans able to recall what kinds of records were available a half-century ago.

Bruno was two years into retirement last September when he got a call from Aldo Capuccio, the head of Generali's legal department. Capuccio "wanted to know if it was possible to reconstruct a policy" from the existing documentation," Bruno said.

When he told Capuccio it was possible to document an individual policy from the subsidiaries' old ledgers, he was tapped by Generali's lawyers to deal with Holocaust-era research.

Bruno, who once planned to assemble a museum of Generali's history, came back to work at Generali's century-old corporate office on Machiavelli Street carrying a 1938 instruction book that explained how to use a Hollerith machine — a punch-card system used to collate and standardize the data later assembled in the Generali registers or ledgers. Today those ledgers, once deemed the products of technological wizardry, are archaic relics, unintelligible to all but those of Bruno's generation.

For each subsidiary, the system generated a ledger covering a single year of activity on the

branch's various insurance accounts. The ledgers listed accounts by policy number and indicated the amount of payment on the premiums.

In Bruno's plan, reconstructing the skeletal story of a policy 50 or 60 years later involves finding the name, the account number and type of policy, and then tracking its trail through a series of annual ledgers submitted by local branches.

In some cases, policies also "traveled." The most surprising case, Bruno said, was a policy that he first found in the "Prague Portfolio."

Then, in 1938, after the Nazis invaded Czechoslovakia, the policy seemed to disappear. He found it in a ledger, covering one year, for "Oberland," apparently referring to a region in northwest

Hungary. A year later, the policy number appeared in Hungarian records.

It is tedious, eye-blurring work that cannot be mechanized. Nor does it lend itself to definitive conclusions. If the trail ends before 1944, the ledger will indicate only that it stopped; it would not show if a policy was redeemed or surrendered. In many cases, though, the trail abruptly freezes at the end of 1944, as though history ends.

Generali contends that its history did, in fact, end at that point when, after more than 100 years of conducting business in Central Europe, its insurance companies were nationalized by post-war communist regimes.

GENERALI was founded in 1831 by Jewish merchants from Trieste,

a picturesque, hilly city that was once the sea gate to the Hapsburg Empire. During the first months of 1832, it opened offices in the other major cities of Central and Eastern Europe. Its principals had maritime interests, and their marine insurance business followed the ships around the globe to major port areas from Santiago to Bombay.

Known as a "Jewish" firm until World War II, Generali established Migdal in Palestine in 1937, and last year spent \$320 million to acquire a majority stake in the Israeli insurance firm.

The company has said it will help assemble documentation to allow one-time policyholders and their heirs to pursue claims, but it insists it is not liable for claims that originated with Central European policies. Instead, it

directs claimants to the government of the European state whose previous regime nationalized the branch office.

In the postwar nationalizations, Generali lost all its East European businesses, 14 other companies it controlled, and 184 buildings, Pastori said.

"In expropriating and nationalizing the company's assets, the communist states of Eastern Europe assumed all Generali's liabilities in these countries," the company said in a statement. "This is not a Holocaust issue; it is a communist nationalization issue," Pastori said. "We were not sitting on the money like the Swiss banks. We lost everything."

Claimants argue, however, that Generali, the parent company, cannot shun its obligations to honor policies written by its sub-

sidaries. They contend that Generali should pay, then seek reimbursement from Eastern European capitals. Some also argue that Generali is liable for claims that came from Czechoslovakia, because a Czech-Italian pact ultimately compensated Generali for some of its losses.

These are issues to be sorted out by a court. In the meantime, when Generali established its archive last year, it also established a \$12 million fund for Holocaust victims, which is administered by a committee headed by an Israeli jurist.

"We are ready to put money on the table, but then that has to be the end of it," Pastori said. "We have a responsibility to shareholders and those who are insured now."



TEL-AVIV-YAFO MUNICIPALITY



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AUDITIONS

Artistic Director: Ms. Joan Dornemann

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TO OUR READERS

Some of the advertisements appearing in our papers are typeset outside The Post. When such an advertisement arrives just before the publication deadline, especially when it is provided in the form of a film, it is difficult for us to correct any spelling mistakes that may appear.

While we make every effort to correct such errors, we must ask our readers' indulgence for those occasions when this is not possible.

The Advertising Department

The full treatment

I think of the spa vacations I've taken over the past several years with a simultaneous shiver of delight and wave of shame.

Why the shame? Because the truth is that going to a really classy spa is one of the most decadent things you can do. After all, when you take other types of expensive vacations you are accomplishing something: broadening your horizons, seeing the world, visiting with your family. At a spa, you pay an outrageous amount of money to do absolutely nothing.

Of course, this is not how visits to spas are marketed, nor what we tell ourselves when we embark on a trip to a spa. No, a stay at a spa is usually sold under the guise of fitness and health. All of the massages and rub-downs and mud wraps are not

and if we can't convince hubby to come along, we take off with a girlfriend. We women are suckers for the "treatments" — the kind where you are wrapped

in a blanket of warm mineral mud, coated with salt like a cutlet, or pummeled with aromatic oils for a massage. They all have enticing names like "The Velvet Peel" or "Aromatherapy Body Rub" or "Deep Cleansing Facial Experience."

"I don't get it," my husband said, glaring at the brochure I offered him to choose his treatment. "Look at this: 'Tired Eye Refresher' takes 45 minutes. What can they possibly do to my eyes that takes that long?"

In the end, he decided that relaxing with the newspaper in the room would do more for him than being pried with Dead Sea mud and essential oils: his

Home Front



Allison Kaplan Sommer

The truth is that you go to a spa and pay hundreds of dollars to wander around in your bathrobe and drink tea: activities that you are perfectly capable of doing at home

only designed to get rid of everyday stress, they are supposed to help you recover from those hours of strenuous exercise you undertake during your trip.

Funny, isn't it, that what you usually see at spas is lots of people loitering by the pool, bubbling in the jacuzzi, waiting in line for their massages... and attacking the buffet table. The exercise rooms, yoga classes, and lectures on fitness and healthy living are usually sparsely attended.

The truth is that you go to a spa and pay hundreds of dollars mainly to wander around in your bathrobe and drink tea: activities that you are perfectly capable of doing at home.

I consider myself lucky that I have managed to drag my significant other to a spa two or three times. And "drag" is the operative verb. In my informal survey I have found that the female half of a couple is usually the driving force behind the choice of this type of vacation —

loss. I got an extra massage.

One possible explanation for the fact that most women adore this stuff is that spa treatments are a non-sinful form of pure physical indulgence. After all, we're talking about a friendly stranger who smells good, guides us into a room with a smile and devotes a full hour of his/her time and energy to making our bodies feel heavenly. At the end of the session, we tip them, smile and say good-bye: no messy emotional involvement and we don't have to clean up afterwards.

Yet the experience, is not, guilt-free. After visiting a spa comes check-out time. Relaxed, massaged, sleek and calm, before we leave the plush facility we have to pay the bill and see just how much all of these physical delights actually cost. Trying to figure out how you're going to pay for all this relaxation can really stress you out.



A diamond in the Ruff: Law student Joni Ruff learns boxing techniques during a session with her coach, Jim Ed Jones, at a boxing center in Virginia. (The Washington Post)

Good punch!

Women's boxing, once considered more spectacle than sport, is catching on in the US in a big way. Marylou Tousignant discovers women enjoy the rigorous workout and the camaraderie

The white Mitsubishi Eclipse pulls into a space in the starkly lit alley behind a Falls Church, Va., shopping center, and 26-year-old Joni Ruff kills the lights, reaches over her law school books to grab her gym bag and sprints down a flight of stairs. Five minutes later, wearing green shorts and a loose-fitting T-shirt that proclaims "the athlete within," the 5-foot, 115-pound Ruff is stretched out on the floor of the basement gym, warming up her leg muscles. Then she grabs a jump-rope and starts skipping rhythmically.

Her coach, Jim Ed Jones, looks on approvingly and, after a few more minutes pass, asks if she is ready. She is.

They retreat to one corner of the gym, and he picks up her headgear and a large pair of red boxing gloves. They are oversized "executive gloves," Jones explains to a visitor, made purposefully large so no one gets hurt. They are as big as Joni Ruff's head. She steps to the center of the ring, a woman with a passion for boxing and the dream of a three-round, two-minute amateur bout. Jones' dream is to make that happen for her. Their timing is perfect: Women's boxing, once dismissed as an unsavory come-on — more spectacle than sport — is catching on in a big way.

The ranks of female boxers — amateur and professional — are swelling, and gyms in the Washington area and elsewhere are filled with women enjoying the rigorous cardiovascular workout and adrenaline rush that boxing brings.

More than 50 women have signed up for lessons at Jones' Olympia Boxing Center — about 45 percent of his clientele. Not all of them want to climb in the ring, however, and certainly not with Joni Ruff. This night, as on most others, her opponent is Cheryl O'Looney, 25, a middle school math teacher from

Arlington, Va., who towers over Ruff and has a six- or seven-inch advantage in reach.

But Ruff is scrappy and determined, like a pesky goat intent on spoiling the picnic. She comes in low and relentless at the less experienced O'Looney. "Work your jabs, Cheryl," Jones encourages. "Double up. Get your rhythm in your feet." Then, to Ruff: "Don't try to hit hard — that wastes your energy. Think boxing, not macho. A boxer hits, then moves. That's it!"

The bell sounds and the two women exit the ring complimenting each other for their good punches and overall improvement. They are eager to get back to their skills drills. This one-two combination of willingness to learn inside the ring and camaraderie outside is something Jones, a former Golden Gloves fighter and member of the Washington, D.C., Boxing Hall of Fame, particularly appreciates.

Once relegated to the status of a carnival sideshow, and even today, talk-showed by some who find it an unbecoming activity for women, women's boxing is nonetheless making major strides as a bona fide American sport. A landmark federal lawsuit opened the sport's national governing body, USA Boxing, to women in 1993. A year later, the Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) followed suit.

Today, 900 women belong to USA Boxing, a 164 percent increase in the last 16 months alone, while the Women's International Boxing Federation, a five-year-old professional boxing association, claims 2,300 fighters in 40 countries. "The novelty has definitely worn off," said Sandy Martinez-Pino, who heads the women's boxing committee for the AIBA and who sits on the board of USA Boxing. "People realize these women are very, very serious and not in there just to look cute. They're there to do the job."

Barry Hunter agrees. For five years, he's been a volunteer boxing coach at the Lincoln Multicultural Center in Washington in a program opened to young women in 1994. In July, two of his boxers, Lakia Coffin and La'Tasha Washington, went to the first women's national championships, in Augusta, Ga., bringing home gold and silver medals, respectively. Sixty-seven women competed, and even more are expected at next month's nationals in Anaheim, Calif. Hunter had to be won over to the idea of women in the ring. "I didn't think too much of women's boxing at first, if you want to know the truth," he said.

"It's a tough sport, both physically and mentally. But [Washington and Coffin] came out, and they hung with it. They took everything I threw at them." Christy Martin, the professional fighter whose bloodied face made the cover of Sports Illustrated two years ago, is credited with revving up interest in women's boxing.

Now, as more women put on gloves and hit the weight bag, the sport is experiencing evolutionary change. "Like a baby starting from a crawl, the skill level is getting better and better," Hunter said.

"By this time next year, you're gonna see some incredible boxing — slipping and sliding, shooting a jab, a right hook. You can't help but say, 'Hey, that was nice. I want to see some more.'"

"Jones sees that already in Ruff, who has been boxing for three years. 'That girl is intent,' he said. 'When you get in the ring with Joni, you better be serious because she's gonna be ready to rumble. I'll put my house on it the day she fights.'"

Said Ruff: "It's about proving to yourself that you're this good, not beating another person. It's not a personal thing. I'm not thinking, 'I want to kill her.' It's more about me. If I lose, I'll be upset, but with me." (The Washington Post)

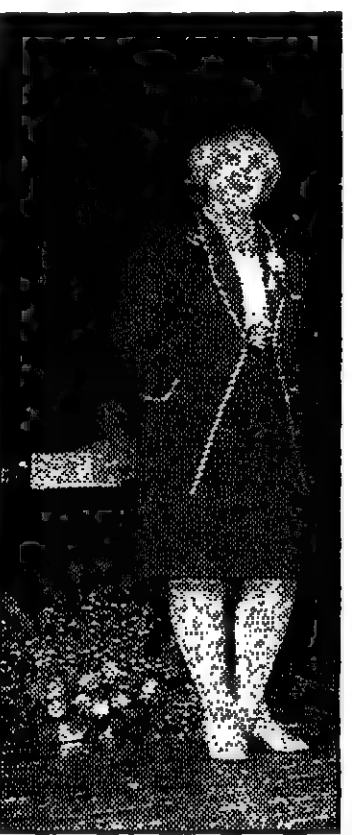
GRAPEVINE

By GRIFFIN CASHMAN

Speaking at the tribute dinner held at the Jerusalem Renaissance Hotel on behalf of MIAs Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz, Avital Sharansky, wife of former Prisoner of Zion Nathan Sharansky, allowed herself a little black humor when referring to her own efforts to have her husband freed and the aftermath of that struggle.

She recounted that a frequent demonstrator who met her years later waxed nostalgic and said what a pity it was that Nathan got out "because there used to be such a great spirit of camaraderie at the demonstrations" on his behalf. Most of the 850 people at the dinner would happily forgo the camaraderie to get Arad, Baumel, Feldman and Katz back home.

THE on again, off again romance between Dudu Topaz and his ex-wife Roni Ches seems to be on again — If a report published in *Yedioth Aharonot* is to be believed. The couple are apparently back under one roof, though not the one under which their marital problems fermented. They now have a new address, which may prove to be luckier than the old one. As yet there's no talk of remarriage. And that may be the secret. Marriage is, after all, an institution and Topaz may just resent being institutionalized.



Hand-in-Hand founder Shaili Hosen, person of the year

SINCE the last municipal elections, Marsha Caspi of Sayvon and Yael Shalital of the Jordan Valley have been the sole females in a man's world. They are the only women functioning as local council heads under the umbrella of the Union of Local Authorities. But all that could change come November, when the next mayoral elections take place. Dynamic businesswoman Gaila Albin has announced that she's running as an independent for mayor of Tel Aviv, and Suzanne Amor, wife of MK and outgoing Migdal Ha'Emek Mayor Shaul Amor, aims to take his place. She's confident of winning, she says, because she's already served a long apprenticeship.

PEACE activist Abie Nathan and symphony conductor Zubin Mehta were born on the same date eight years apart. When restaurateurs Vinod and Reena Pushkarna opened the first of their Tandoori restaurants 15 years ago, they got tremendous support from fellow Indians Nathan and Mehta, who have remained close friends. The opening of the newest Tandoori in Ramat Hahayal earlier this month almost coincided with the birthday of the two men, who each found a birthday cake with a huge candle waiting for them. For Nathan, 69, who suffered a stroke a couple of years back and has since been confined to a wheelchair, the occasion was very special because it showed that his friends have not forgot-



Abie Nathan, close friend and loyal customer of Reena Pushkarna (right) of Tandoori restaurants. (Israel Sam)

ten him. Over the weekend, the Pushkarnas held a second opening of their Ramat Hahayal outlet for the local Hindu community and served strictly vegetarian dishes.

ISRAELI Prize laureate Yaffa Yarkoni was feted by the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the founders of Zichron Ya'acov at the Pastoral restaurant in the Alice Meroz courtyard, which has been a battleground between religious and secular forces on issues of Shabbat observance. Originally a farmers' tavern, the restaurant, which was part of the first hotel in Zichron Ya'acov, has been restored by Emanuel and Avshalom Wilder, the grandchildren of the original proprietor, who built the premises over a century ago.

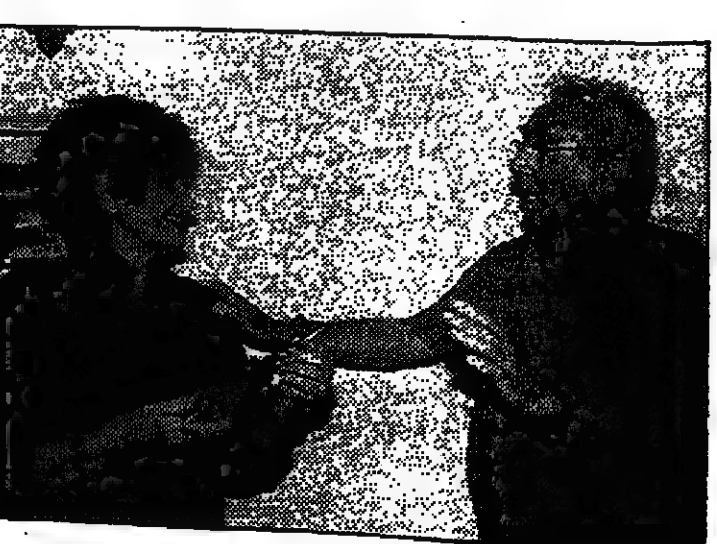
In addition to the restaurant, the courtyard contains an antique store and a wine cellar. Local council head Yishai Shibovsky presented Yarkoni with the key to the city, and former agriculture minister Pessah Grapper gave her a bandage to cover the injuries she sustained in the anti-celebration demonstration at Beit Haterutsoth.

USUALLY handing out the silver symbol of the Hand-in-Hand organization which she founded, Shaili Hosen was on the receiving end when she accepted the national Lions award for volunteerism and was named Person of the Year. Sharing the limelight with Choshen at a gala gathering of some 1,500 people at the Hachal Hall in Petah Tikva were Meir Amit, Yaffa Yarkoni and Dan Fropper, who were singled out for their contributions to national security, Hebrew song and industry. The event took place in the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Moshe Katsav and Petah Tikva Mayor Giora Lev.

JERUSALEM Mayor Ehud Olmert was scheduled to attend, as was Health Minister Yehoshua Matza, but neither showed up to the opening of the new Jerusalem branch of Ezer Mezion, the voluntary organization which provides food, equipment and household help for the sick and the needy. However, Jerusalem Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Kolitz, just out of the hospital and barely able to walk, made the effort, as did Labor and Social Welfare Minister Eli Yishai and Deputy Housing Minister Meir Porush.

MANY a Likudnik can testify to the culinary abilities of Ludmilla Tichon, wife of Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon. The speaker's spouse, who is the president of Nitzan, which helps youngsters with learning disabilities, now wants to direct her talents to a good cause. She hopes to publish a cookbook, with all the profits going to Nitzan. She's currently in search of a publisher.

FOLK singer Betty Klein, who has sung in most parts of the world, will draw an audience on Saturday night that she doesn't usually get, when she appears with the Armenian Yerevan Group at the Bible Lands Museum in Jerusalem.



Yaffa Yarkoni receives the key to Zichron Ya'acov from local council head Yishai Shibovsky. (Israel Sam)

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY



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Mr. Robert J. Topchik
National President, American Friends, TAU

Mr. Jules Love
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Mrs. Yael Dror

Lecture
Professor Tom Lewy
Chairman of the Theater Department
Theater Studies in View of the Israeli Theater Scene

On Sunday, 17 May 1998 at 2:00 p.m., Room 127, Bob Shapell School of Social Work, Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv

- The public is invited -

TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY



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In memory of CHARLES AND SALLY DRIMER
and their parents SOLOMON AND ROSA DRIMER
DAVID AND REGINA LINKS

Opening remarks
Mr. Danny Shapiro
Assistant to the Vice President

Lecture
Professor Aviv Amirav
School of Chemistry

Advanced Methods in Analytical Chemistry

On Thursday, 14 May 1998 at 2:00 p.m., Holcblat Auditorium
Shenkar Building of Chemistry, Tel Aviv University Campus, Ramat Aviv
Entrance through Rammiceanu Gate (4)

- The public is invited -

TV keeps me sane

Dear Ruthie,
I am a married 24-year-old woman with a four-year old son and a two-year-old daughter. I have a part-time job, and I am exhausted most of the time from working and then coming home to take care of the children. This is why I run a "tight ship." The kids must be in bed by 7 p.m., no matter what, or else I have no time to relax before I go to bed (usually pretty early). The one thing I find most relaxing is watching television, and there are two shows in particular I'm "addicted" to.

After the kids go to bed, I like to eat my supper in the living room, where the TV is.

The problem is my husband comes home from work just as I need this time to myself, and he wants to talk to me about his day. Then I never really get a chance to pay attention to him or to the TV.

When I look at the screen, he gets insulted. And he only likes to watch sports and the news. We are on an extremely limited budget and we do not have a VCR. We live in a very tiny flat, so it is hard to go into another room to relax, and we only have one TV set.

He thinks my not being interested in spending the little time we have together with him is harming our marriage. I think that not having an outlet for my nerves is harming it. Can we bridge this gap?

Split Audience
Somewhere in Israel

Dear Split Audience,
Spending time with your husband while resenting the inability to "space out" in front of the TV will get the two of you nowhere in terms of your marriage. Neither will your husband's allowing you to watch

the tube enhance your relations if he is feeling wounded by your lack of attention to him.

The condition for being able to "bridge this gap" is that any arrangement you work out with one another be as devoid of other marital baggage as possible. Given your extremely young age, the baggage you two are carrying as a couple may not be too cumbersome. Not dealing with this issue early on, however, can add a ton of bricks to your load.

In order to reach a mutually acceptable agreement, you must be honest with yourselves about the driving force behind your wishes and motives. Consider the possibility, for example, that your husband feels hurt about your desire to watch TV in the evening, not because he is incapable of understanding your physical and mental exhaustion at the end of the day, but rather because he feels you are pulling away from him emotionally. Perhaps the only way he knows how to respond to this anxiety is to hang onto you more tightly. The expression this takes is forcing you to focus on him rather than on the screen.

You must examine whether your resentment about not being able to watch TV in peace is somehow connected to the fact that you are saddled with two children while on an "extremely limited budget," for which you blame your husband, who comes home just as they have gone to bed. If so, it is this issue which you should be addressing before working out a compatible viewing schedule.

Letters should be addressed to: "Dear Ruthie," POB 81, Jerusalem 91000. For E-mail: ruthie@post.co.il. "Dear Ruthie" also appears in Jerusalem and in City Lights on Fridays.

Dear Ruthie



Ruthie Blum

1051001520

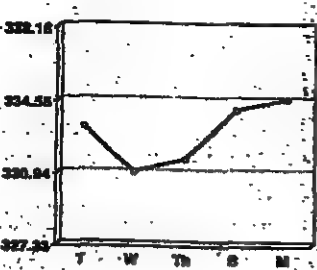
MARKETS

in brief

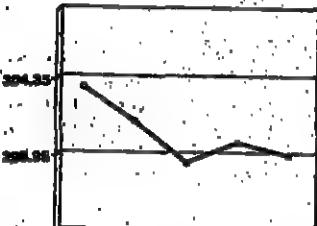
DOLLAR / SHEKEL



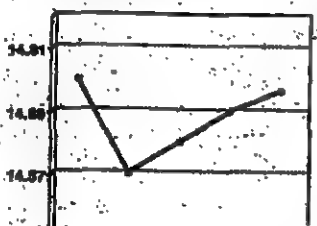
MAOF INDEX



GOLD



OIL



DOLLAR / DEUTSCHEMARK



DOW JONES INDUST. AVG.



January-April trade deficit shrinks 28.3%
The trade deficit shrank 28.3% in the first four months of the year, compared to the same period in 1997, the Central Bureau of Statistics said yesterday.
During April, the trade deficit reached \$494.1 million, down from \$675.2 million in the April last year.
Imports totaled \$2.142 billion and exports \$1.658 billion. Exports to the Far East were down 18% (excluding diamonds) in the first four months.
David Harris

Seagram close to buying PolyGram for \$10b.
Seagram Co. is close to an agreement to purchase PolyGram NV, the world's largest recorded-music company, for between \$9 billion and \$10 billion, people familiar with the situation said.
Philips would neither confirm nor deny the report, which appeared first in the *Wall Street Journal Europe*.
Seagram is trying to use music to expand its entertainment business, which includes Universal Studios, while Royal Philips Electronics NV, which owns 75 percent of PolyGram, has said it's reviewing its strategy for the Dutch music and film company, which hasn't delivered the same rate of profit growth as other divisions.
Bloomberg

Israel, S. Korea sign cooperation agreement
Israel and South Korea signed an agricultural cooperation agreement yesterday which will lead to exchanges of experts and technical cooperation.
Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan, who is on an official visit to Japan and South Korea, signed the agreement with his Korean counterpart, Sung Hoon Kim.
Nina Gilbert

Dairy Board: No subsidized imports
Allowing the import of subsidized milk powder and fat will result in a drop in production of 40 million liters of milk a year and the closure of one-third of milk drying facilities in the country, the Dairy Board said yesterday.
The board was responding to a court petition by ice cream companies and the Manufacturers Association against the Dairy Board, which it claimed is a monopoly that is selling the raw materials at exorbitant prices.
Nina Gilbert

Sharansky offers NIS 800m. growth package

Treasury, Frenkel: Job-creation plans must not breach budget

By DAVID HARRIS and Jerusalem Post Staff
As the government set out to continue the job-creation debate it started last week, the Treasury and the Bank of Israel yesterday said prospective pressures for budgetary breaches should be rejected outright.
"While there is a consensus about the need for increased infrastructure spending, such a move can only come at the expense of existing expenditures," Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel told *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.
The cabinet is expected to vote this afternoon on the NIS 1 billion proposal for accelerating growth and job creation introduced last week by Finance Minister Yaskov Neeman.

While Industry and Trade Minister Nathan Sharansky's top aides did not explicitly say they oppose Neeman's package, his ministry's Director-General Dov Mishor said, "The Treasury program is insufficient."
Meanwhile, the Industry and Trade Ministry said Sharansky will present to the cabinet today his own NIS 800 million package of measures for encouraging renewed economic growth and reducing unemployment - a program the Treasury sources say is unacceptable.
Senior Treasury sources last night said Sharansky's plan "must not be approved" because it necessitates an NIS 800m. breach of the state budget, which would in turn lead to the government failing to reach its deficit target of 2.4 percent of the gross domestic product.

The Finance Ministry's own NIS 1b. scheme, however, is planned to be funded from within the existing state budget, according to Director-General Ben-Zion Zilberfarb.
Sharansky's program includes:
• NIS 360m. to be added to the Chief Scientist's budget for research and development.
• NIS 60m. in extra help for small businesses.
• NIS 30m. to be spent on the Industry and Trade Ministry's human capital program.
• NIS 300m. to be invested in supporting foreign risk insurance.
• An immediate 2% cut in interest rates.
On the other hand, the Treasury package includes NIS 920m. to be spent on road and rail improvements and a series of measures aimed at cutting through the bureaucratic

machinery that is preventing the implementation of major infrastructure projects.
"This is insufficient and doesn't address the problem, whereas what we are proposing is more all-encompassing, comprehensive and balanced," said Mishor. "I have no problem with what they're proposing; infrastructure is very important but they are concentrating on one very specific area."
Sharansky's Yisrael Ba'Aliya colleague, Immigration and Absorption Minister Yuli Edelstein, once again yesterday called on ministers to vote against Neeman's proposals, claiming they do not focus on the needs of the workforce.
Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also opposes the Treasury plan, which calls for an across-the-board 0.2% cut in ministerial budgets.



Developing economic strategy
Nigerian Foreign Minister Tobi Adenikan listens to the opening speech of the G-15 summit yesterday by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. Leaders of developing countries called for a united voice in world trade talks and a measured approach in liberalizing trade in world trade talks.

Teva's first-quarter net down 20%

By DAN GERSTENFELD
Teva Pharmaceutical Industries reported yesterday that first-quarter net income fell 20 percent to \$25.1 million from \$31.5m. a year earlier.
Following the report Teva's share plunged 8.5% to NIS 156.1 on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange.
The announcement follows a 30% decline in fourth-quarter profits.
"The results were below expectations," said Ephraim Steinbruch, an analyst at Ofek Securities. "The main problem is sales. The company didn't sell enough new drugs to compensate for the decline in the prices of old drugs."
Despite predictions of better results, Israel's

largest drug maker said that the results were within expectations. Sales for the quarter remained almost unchanged at \$268.6m. compared with \$267.6m. a year earlier and \$291m. in the last quarter of 1997.
Sales in the US, Teva's primary market, fell slightly to \$126.6m. from \$129.8m. in the corresponding quarter in 1997.
In a statement, the company said that pharmaceutical sales in the US would have increased were it not for a sharp decline in sales of Clonazepam, its generic anti-depressant treatment.
Teva said that the product managed to slightly increase its market share but not to the extent necessary to compensate for drastic price decreases.
"If Teva wants to continue leading the US

generic market it needs to constantly make progress. In this market you can't afford to remain stagnant," Steinbruch said.
He added, however, that the company is expected to show significantly improved results in the second half of the year.
The results were also affected by a 12% decline in sales to the local market, in which revenues dropped to \$71m., from \$77.8m. a year ago.
The company attributed the decrease to the end of the marketing agreement with Merck & Co., which started selling its products in Israel independently. The company said, however, that sales of other lines in Israel increased.
Teva added that, as expected, no new generic product approvals were received during the first quarter.

Fund launches Arab-Jewish business training program

By NINA GILBERT
A management training program for young Israeli Jews and Arabs was launched this week with the aim of developing a cadre of business leaders who have a cross-cultural understanding and building a basis for cooperation and equal

opportunity.
Eleven young people have been chosen to participate in the 10-month course, "Building Business Bridges."
For the next course, there is a plan to include Palestinians, Jordanians and Egyptians as a means to expand this network regionally, thus facilitating business links throughout the region.
The sponsor of the program are the New Israel Fund, the Center for Jewish-Arab Economic Development and Marks & Spencer.
Khaled Darwish, a law student from Acre, said he believes Israeli Arabs are blocked from integrating in the business community because of stereotypes and prejudices.
"Israel has advanced, high-quality products in every sector of the economy and there is great potential for business with the Arab world," he said. "Israeli Arabs can greatly contribute to Israeli efforts to sell products in the Arab world."
He said more and more young

Arabs are interested in studying business, which is seen as the profession of the future.
Ofra Harari-Rosenblatt, a fashion designer from Caesarea, said the program will help give opportunities to young Arab businesspeople, who don't have as many opportunities to obtain business experience or don't always have the tools to go into business.
Moreover, she said, "relations between Jews and Arabs must start with the basics - getting to know one another."
The aim of the program is to break the "glass wall" dividing Israeli Jews and Arabs in the business world. Some 30% of Jews are employed in management and professional positions, compared with less than 15% of Arabs.
The course was officially launched this week as part of the British Week celebration of ties with Israel in honor of its 50th anniversary.
As part of the program, the

group will study business courses, travel to London for a training program at Marks & Spencer's head office, and also have internships with leading manufacturers in Israel.
Eliezer Ya'ari, Israel director of the New Israel Fund, said the main aim of the program is to create contact between Jews and Arabs.
"It is important to build a young leadership who can be emissaries in the community," he said.
The economic gap between Jews and Arabs is large. Part of this economic imbalance has to do with discrimination. Israeli Arabs are not part of the Jewish network, which is an important part of the business relationship. As a result, they are not able to break into management positions," he said.
Lord Clinton Davis, Britain's trade minister, who arrived here for British Week, said business networking creates "trust and understanding."
"Such efforts are fundamental for pursuing peace. Just think what this part of the world could be with peace."

SBC to buy Ameritech for \$71b.

By COLLEEN MCLEROY and ANDREW BROOKS
SAN ANTONIO (Bloomberg) - SBC Communications Inc. said it will buy Ameritech Corp. for \$71 billion in stock and assumed debt, creating the largest US local telephone company with customers from Ohio to California.
SBC will exchange 1,316 of its shares for each Ameritech share, valuing the Chicago Bell at \$55.77 a share, or \$62b. The price is 27 percent more than Ameritech's Friday close.
The purchase is SBC's second of a fellow Baby Bell in the two years since the landmark Telecommunications Act was passed to boost phone competition. The acquisition is the largest ever in the phone industry, leapfrogging SBC ahead of Bell Atlantic Corp. in the local arena and adding a strong international presence to its booming wireless business.
"This is a colossal deal which will rock telecom to the core," said Jeffrey Kagan, president of market researcher Kagan Telecom Associates. "Merger mania might not be what the Telecom Act had in mind, but this is the path many local and long-distance companies are taking."
SBC's purchase of Ameritech creates a company with annual profit of about \$5.7b., revenue of about \$41b. and a market value of \$146b., more than 50% greater than AT&T Corp.'s.

Bet Shemesh Engines opens new disc line

By STEVE HOGAN
Bet Shemesh Engines has launched a new line for the production of turbine discs for giant engines that executives say has the potential of attracting tens of millions of dollars in new contracts.
The new production line will allow the company to enter the market for the PW 4000 and JT9-1 engines - used in the Boeing 747, 767, and 777 passenger planes.
Pratt & Whitney Government Engines & Space Propulsion Division president Carl Krapek, who toured the plant, said the potential for Bet Shemesh Engines in entering the new market amounts to tens of millions of dollars.
The new line was handed over to the plant by P&W for no charge and underwent refurbishing here before it began operations.
Bet Shemesh Engines recently obtained contracts worth several millions of dollars from P&W for the supply of turbine discs from the new production line.
Bet Shemesh Engines president Avner Shacham said P&W has decided that his plant will carry out maintenance and upgrade work of the F100-PW-229 engine that will power the new F-15I fighter jet.
Bet Shemesh has been designated as a preferred supplier of P&W and is producing for the US company components of commercial engines.
The backlog of orders at Bet Shemesh Engines has grown from \$8 million in 1992 - when the company was sold by the Israeli government - to \$100m. this year. Most of the orders are long term and signed primarily with P&W.
Bet Shemesh Engines also turned a \$2m. profit last year. Its first profitable year was in 1995, with net earnings of \$500,000.

ISRAEL LANDS ADMINISTRATION

Information is available by fax and phone (recorded message):
1. On construction tenders - 03-638-8883 (Tel/Cla)
2. On results of tenders - 03-638-9363 (Tel/Cla)
3. On documents needed by the I.L.A. when dealing with various matters*
* Short term leasing of agricultural land, building additions, transferring rights, owner-occupier construction, etc.

Israel Lands Administration Northern District Shikun U'Pituach Ltd. Ministry of Construction and Housing Herta District

"Build Your Own Home" in Shikun, Shechuna Ma'aravi and Shechuna Shilomit - Remaining Plots for Local Residents (7 plots)

The Israel Lands Administration, in cooperation with the Ministry of Construction and Housing, Shikun U'Pituach Ltd. and the Shikun Local Council, is offering local residents seven building plots for private residential construction. These plots remain from previously published programs. The offer is subject to the conditions detailed in the tender booklet. Each plot is intended for the construction of one housing unit only.

Registration will take place in the Urban Transactions Department, Israel Lands Administration, Upper Nazareth Government Center, Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Tel. 06-655-8211.

One plot will be allocated to a disabled person, as set forth in the tender booklet. Disabled residents of Shikun who have not previously been awarded a plot in a draw are eligible to register.

The remaining six plots are offered to Shikun residents, as defined in the tender booklet. Only those Shikun residents who have not been allocated a residential building in a draw in the past ten years are eligible to register. Disabled persons must submit a signed declaration witnessed by a lawyer that they have not previously received a plot for residential building in a draw from the I.L.A. The text of the declaration will be attached to the tender booklet.

Other applicants must attach a signed declaration witnessed by a lawyer that they have not been allocated a residential building plot in the last ten years by the I.L.A. in a draw. The text of the declaration will be attached to the booklet.

Registration will open at 9:00 a.m. on June 8, 1998, and close at 1:30 p.m. on July 9, 1998.

When registering, a bank check for NIS 5,000, made out to Shikun U'Pituach Ltd., must be deposited against payment for the development costs.

The booklet is available free of charge at the above office of the I.L.A. from June 8, 1998.

A draw will be held among those registering at 11:30 a.m. on July 21, 1998 at the above I.L.A. office.

This notice is for general information purposes only and does not obligate the I.L.A. in any way, either in terms of content or dates. The binding terms are those contained in the booklet and its appendices.

Internet address: <http://www.mml.gov.il>

MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

Change of Address and Voting: Warning

The public is hereby informed that the following is considered an offense according to the Local Elections Law:

1. Falsely informing the Population Registry that one has moved to a different town, as a result of which the person's name is registered in the voters roll of that town.
2. Voting in that town in the following elections, after so changing one's address.

The punishment for this offense is three years imprisonment.

Vote Legally - Avoid Unpleasantness

Want to keep
in close touch
with your
securities
till 11 PM?

JOIN IDB TELEBANK
DIAL 03-5199111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM.
IDB ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Building Blocks

By Nina Gilbert

JERUSALEM area

The area around Ethiopia and Nevi'im streets is famous for its majestic buildings, which include consulates, churches and hospitals built in the late 19th century through the beginning of the British Mandate. Ethiopia built its consulate and church in the area and its royalty built homes there. Eliezer Ben-Yehuda was a former resident of the neighborhood.

Anglo-Saxon is marketing three properties in the area, which is relatively quiet given its proximity to the center of town. On Ethiopia Street, a three-room 90-sq.m. apartment, with a separate entrance and large garden, is being offered for \$440,000. On nearby Bnei Brit, a five-room property on the first floor of a home with another two rooms in the basement is on sale for \$780,000. Also on the street, a three-room house with rights for an addition and a garden is on sale for \$360,000.

On French Hill's Rehov Ha'etzel, a beautifully renovated four-room apartment was sold for \$272,000 to American buyers by Anglo-Saxon. The asking price for the apartment, on the third floor with an elevator, was \$285,000.

On Rehov Hatayassin in Kiryat Shmuel, a renovated three-room apartment on the second floor was sold for \$295,000. The asking price was \$320,000.

In Baka, on Derech Hevron, a two-and-a-half-room apartment in an Arab house was sold for \$166,000. The apartment, on the second floor with a porch, needed renovations.

In Modi'in, a five-room duplex plus another three-room unit on the ground floor with a separate entrance on Rehov Nahal Zohar was sold for \$240,000 by Century 21. The 210-sq.m. home also has an 85-sq.m. garden and enclosed parking.

A 130-sq.m. five-room apartment with a view and a 23-sq.m. attic on Rehov Nahal Sorek was sold for \$205,000. The agency also sold an 85-sq.m. three-room apartment with a 70-sq.m. garden on Rehov Nahal Arnon for \$155,000.

TEL AVIV area

A four-room apartment on Rehov David Hamelech, on the second floor with an elevator, was sold for \$360,000 by Century 21. The 100-sq.m. apartment is in fair condition and facing the street. The asking price was \$340,000. On Rehov Be'eri, a four-room apartment in fair condition on the third floor with an elevator was sold for \$420,000. The asking price for the apartment, which faces

the street, was \$450,000. On Rehov Nehardaya, a 90-sq.m. three-room apartment in fair condition on the third floor without an elevator or parking was sold for \$255,000. The asking price was \$300,000.

In Ramat Hasharon, a seven-room villa on Rehov Snir was sold for \$650,000 by Century 21. The 250-sq.m. 19-year-old home, which needs extensive renovations, sits on a 390-sq.m. plot. According to the agency, the house was overpriced at \$800,000, and would have been sold much sooner if a realistic price had been asked. If the house had not been viewed as "stuck in the market" it could have been sold at even a higher price, the agency noted.

EILAT and south

Nine apartments were sold in one week in the Hilton Queen of Sheba apartment hotel during a jubilee celebration sales campaign. A European investor bought five studio apartments in the project for \$1 million. There are now only 11 studio apartments left out of 36 units put on sale a year ago. The next day an American bought two two-room suites and asked to connect them into a 110-sq.m. apartment. The price for the two properties was \$500,000. Another suite was bought by an American for \$278,000 and an Israeli from the center of the country bought a smaller suite for \$240,000.

Shmuel Levy, managing director of the Ambassador firm, which is marketing the project, said there was great interest in the project by Jews from abroad and most had signed agreements with the Hilton to rent out the apartments. The Hilton Queen of Sheba has 450 units, half of which were offered for sale. The project also has a 600-sq.m. conference center and 5,500 sq.m. of commercial space. It is expected to open by the end of the year. The Hilton has signed a 30-year agreement to manage the hotel. The main investors in the project are Ted Arison and Yitzhak Tabou.

The Fishman Holdings Group is to build a commercial center on the Kastina-Eilat route, at Lahavim. The company said that the center will serve residents of the area as well as travelers to the Eilat region. A survey found that both groups did not have any shopping outlets in the area. The buying power of the clientele has been estimated at \$2.1m. a month. Construction is to start in six months and the project is due to be completed in two years. Lahavim now has some 2,700 residents, and the population is expected to climb to 15,000 within eight years.

Merging traffic

The historic alliance between Germany's Daimler-Benz and America's Chrysler, announced last week, is forcing the global automobile industry to rethink its ongoing consolidation

By J. THOR-DAHLBERG, D. HOLLEY and J. O'DELL

LOS ANGELES — The historic alliance of Germany's Daimler-Benz and America's Chrysler rippled through Tokyo, Detroit, Frankfurt and other auto capitals last week, as the world's three dozen or so other car makers wondered if they will — or should — be next.

Is Nissan, its stock at fire-sale prices, in someone's cross-hairs already? How can Fiat and Peugeot survive on their own after 1999 when the likes of Toyota can compete unfettered in Europe? Why doesn't somebody buy up the Koreans and cancel all those unnecessary factories they're building? Will the Mercedes mystique carry over to Chrysler, hurting General Motors and Ford?

The company, to be called DaimlerChrysler, is forcing the global industry to rethink its ongoing consolidation. In all likelihood, though, it will be speeded up, reducing the number of full-fledged auto producers by perhaps half over the next decade.

The process has been gaining steam for years. Last year, according to a new Price Waterhouse global study, there were 602 auto-industry acquisitions worth more than \$18 billion — most in the huge, low-profile network of companies that make automotive components.

But the DaimlerChrysler combine dwarfs all previous such efforts, and the sophistication and resources of the partners has huge implications around the world.

The takeover opportunities in the US seem far-fetched: GM and Ford are still the world's two largest auto producers, and their presence overseas is as formidable as it is at home.

"There's nothing else to buy in the US," says AutoPacific Inc. analyst James Hall.

But GM and Ford will have to redouble efficiencies and scramble to match the newcomer's engineering and styling savvy to compete on their home turf.

One market to watch is minivans, pickup trucks and sports-utility vehicles, which make up nearly 60 percent of Ford's total sales and almost half of GM's.

Chrysler is also a strong player in that highly profitable market, and Daimler engineering and components could give Chrysler quick access to new products. Meanwhile, Chrysler's nationwide dealership network could provide a huge number of new outlets for the new, US-built Mercedes-Benz M-Class luxury sports-utility vehicle.

Mercedes also is looking at developing a minivan, and Daimler's Oregon-based Freightliner heavy-



Chrysler's dealership network could provide a huge number of new outlets for the US-built Mercedes-Benz M-Class luxury sports-utility vehicle, pictured here rolling off the production line. (AP)

truck unit is designing a pickup truck aimed at the US and Latin American markets. Chrysler gives it a distribution chain it was lacking.

"If Daimler-Chrysler came on strong in the truck segment, it could be a lethal combination," said Bill Wilson, economist and auto specialist at Comerica Inc. in Detroit.

Meanwhile, marketing experts are speculating about the luster that Chrysler's mass-market products might acquire from the Mercedes-Benz connection — a sheen that could offset the US company's iffy-quality reputation and make it a tougher competitor for everyone in the US market.

That could spell trouble not just for GM, Ford and the Japanese, but for European car makers wooing Americans with luxury lines that now compete with Mercedes-Benz. Volvo, the only company without a strong alliance to help prop it up, is most vulnerable, industry watchers say.

"They're the odd man out, and this deal leaves them there," said Magliano. "Their product line is vulnerable because they compete in the (near-luxury) arena that Mercedes is in and that Chrysler wants into."

A London-based auto industry analyst recently called the battle to make and sell cars in Europe a "Darwinian struggle." And the merger of Daimler-Benz and Chrysler makes some rivals' chances for survival in the jungle even slimmer, industry experts said last week.

In Europe, at least three auto makers — Fiat, Volvo and Peugeot — will be in a very bad position and will have to merge with somebody else," said Laurent Imbert, European manager for Ofivalmo, a Paris fund managing company.

Although industry sales this year are on the upswing after five years in the doldrums, Europe's automotive sector, which accounts for 27% of worldwide sales, remains plagued by chronic overcapacity, oversupply, high costs, intense competition, low prices and low profits.

To keep their heads above water, many of the continent's car makers, from France's partially state-owned Renault to General Motors' German subsidiary Opel, have cut costs and jobs and closed plants.

And, it seems, the competition is only going to get more intense. On Dec. 31, 1999, a voluntary agreement between the European Union and Japan limiting

Japanese-made car imports to 1.23 million vehicles expires, leaving the market in 15 countries of Western Europe wide open. In Europe itself, Japanese auto makers, who built local plants in the 1980s, especially in Britain, are busy with another round of construction.

Last week Fiat, Italy's biggest car maker, announced plans to join with Renault to make buses, and it was rumored — again — to be in negotiations about a tie-in with Ford. Volvo of Sweden and Mitsubishi of Japan, which have a joint manufacturing venture in the Netherlands, were also reportedly talking about broadening their cooperation.

Also last week, Vickers PLC, the British defense conglomerate that owns Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, announced that it had decided to accept a \$690 million cash offer from Volkswagen instead of an earlier bid from rival German car maker BMW.

The Chrysler-Daimler news had particular resonance in Japan, where a bleak economic outlook has already caused jumpiness among auto makers, and the industry is increasingly bifurcated between the "haves" — Toyota and

Honda — and the "have-nots," or everybody else.

Automotive stocks tumbled last week at the merger's implications for tougher international competition. Nissan, where earnings are thought to have virtually disappeared for the just-finished fiscal year due to heavy losses in North America, saw its stock price hit a 25-year low.

That cheap price might seem to make Nissan a fat takeover target. Nissan's stock, said Peter Boardman, an auto analyst at SBC Warburg in Tokyo, is now so cheap that Toyota "could buy Nissan, close it down, and probably make the money back in three to four years" by greater sales.

US auto firms already have strong links to Japanese firms. Ford, with 33.3% ownership of Mazda, exercises effective management control — but only because Sumitomo Bank, the other key shareholder, wants Ford to be in charge. Isuzu Motors, a manufacturer of trucks and commercial vehicles, is 37.4% owned by GM.

"GM already has management control (of Isuzu)," Boardman said. "The president of Mazda is from Ford already. What more could they want?" (Los Angeles Times)

Cashing in on foreign executives

Amid an atmosphere of falling property prices, international businessmen are willing to pay big bucks for fully equipped luxury housing

MARKET WATCH

By Dan Greenfield

The massive inflow of multinational companies seeking to do business in Israel is seen as one of the major developments in the Israeli economy. The exposure of the local business sector to international corporations seems so natural nowadays that reports of foreign giants such as Intel and Nestle investing in Israel are no longer viewed as something exceptional.

One of the products of this "foreign invasion" is a new rental market of executive apartments for businessmen who stay in Israel for more than a few days.

While real-estate prices have been falling for the last year and a half — luxury homes suffering the sharpest decrease — demand for small, fully equipped luxury apartments in the Tel Aviv area remains relatively high. Centrally located one- or two-bedroom flats have become very popular among foreigners, who once preferred the large private houses of Herzliya-Kfar Shmaryahu. Now, only foreign diplomats are interested in that market.

Chaim Agi, general manager of M.A.N. properties, believes that the executive apartment market is becoming more attractive. According to Agi, whose firm recently signed an agreement to become the local representative of Prudential Referral Services, there is a fixed demand for 150 to 200 apartments a year, while the market suffers from a constant shortage of some 50 percent.

"Finding residences for foreign companies that relocate their executives is a tough task," he said.



"Those managers, who usually come to Israel for six months to two years, have high demands and specific requirements."

Foreign executives are mainly looking to rent a two-bedroom apartment along the beachfront. They demand high quality furniture, a doorman, air-conditioning, a parking space, daily cleaning services, a kitchenette, a gym, a sauna, a swimming pool and a nice view. Such a one- to two-bedroom apartment can be rented for \$2,000 to \$4,000 a month.

According to Agi, these apartments represent a business opportunity for investors who are interested in the property market. "Today you can buy a fully equipped one-bedroom apartment for \$350,000 and rent it out for at least \$2,000. Buying a non-luxury apartment in the Tel Aviv area for

the same price would only yield \$800 to \$1,000 a month."

It should be noted, however, that the costs of holding a luxury apartment are relatively high and can reach \$500 a month due to maintenance and depreciation. In addition, the flat could remain empty for several weeks until a new tenant moves in.

Another problem is finding such a flat, as the number of apartment hotels which offer all the required facilities is limited.

Orna Ben-Nun, manager of Yavit Hotel, Tel Aviv's first apartment hotel, said that all the suites in the hotel were sold years ago to foreign residents. "I don't know about anyone who wants to sell his apartment. On the contrary, most of them are looking to buyout their next-door neighbor."

Ben-Nun added that apartment

owners usually spend a few weeks a year in the apartments and rent them out for the remaining time for \$4,000 to \$8,000 a month. She said that most of the executive renters are only staying in the hotel for a few weeks before returning to their country or moving to a permanent residence.

Most of the visitors to the Yavit hotel are diplomats, businessmen and representatives of companies that are involved in large infrastructure projects such as the Trans-Israel Highway.

According to Agi, the average client is 35 to 40 years old, works in the fields of telecommunications or software and is married with no children. These executives usually spend the first few weeks in Israel in a regular hotel room before they start looking for a more comfortable, permanent res-

idence, like an executive apartment. Such a businessman would usually come by himself for the first six to 12 months, after which time his wife would join him. Therefore it's important that the apartment also suit her needs.

Agi believes that the crisis of the hotel industry could have been partly solved by customizing hotel rooms for foreign businessmen. "Instead of complaining about the lack of tourism, the hotels could have entered this market by adding kitchens to their suites."

Even if hotel owner take Agi's advice, there is no guarantee it would be enough to save the ailing industry. It could, however, lead to higher competition in this relatively untapped market, which in turn could ease the shortage of executive apartments.

THE CONFERENCE CIRCUIT

By GURU LAW CASHMAN

12.5 Teva Managing Director Eli Hurvitz will speak at the Hebrew University's School of Business Management on The Strategy of Leading Companies in Combining Internal Growth with Acquisition. The address, at room 502 of the Maierdorf Building on the Mount Scopus Campus, will be followed by discussion.

12.5 Sales '98, a two-day conference on The Secrets of Sales and Marketing, will be held at the Dan Panorama Convention Center in Tel Aviv.

18.5 Law and Order: The Application of the Shari'a (Law) in the Middle East is the title of the annual Joseph (Buddy) Strelitz Lecture. Prof. Gudrun Kramer of the University of Berlin will deliver the lecture at the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies at Tel Aviv University. The exact venue is Hall 496 of the Gilman Building at TAU's Ramat Aviv campus.

18.5 The Management College will host a study day on Retirement and Health Insurance at the Radisson Moriah Hotel, Tel Aviv. Subjects tabled for discussion include "Choices in provident funds"; "Health insurance through insurance companies in comparison to compulsory health insurance"; and "Old and new pension funds."

18.5 Israelis seeking business opportunities in Poland in the fields of construction, chemistry, carpets, consumer goods, cosmetics, engineering, food, furniture, jewelry, local authorities, metallurgy, packaging, textiles, leather and transport will be able to make

contacts at the four Polish Business Days being held at the Israel Trade Fairs and Convention Center. In addition to representatives from numerous Polish trade and commercial ventures, information will also be available at stands manned by the Commercial Counselor's Office of the Polish Embassy. This is the largest Polish promotional event to be held in Israel to date.

18.5 Info '98, a four-day conference on many aspects of harnessing, storing and using information, will take place at the Dan Panorama Convention Center in Tel Aviv. Some of the subjects to be addressed include: "Creative intelligence"; "The information professional in the Internet era"; and "The Internet as a business tool."

25.5 Gan Oranim in Tel Aviv is the venue for a convention entitled The Globalization Process and Business Culture in Israel — International Standards and Conducting Business Abroad. The event is co-sponsored by The Israel Export Institute, Focus Ha'aretz, Ramot Schechter & Co. Investment House and Barak Enterprises.

9.6 Communications Minister Limor Livnat will be one of the many speakers presenting papers at Interpro '98, a two-day conference at Gan Oranim celebrating the existence of the Hebrew Internet. Livnat will talk about developments in communications in Israel, while other speakers will review "The Internet in Israel at the present time"; "Internet for business strategies and future needs"; and "Internet in the service of banking."

05/12/98

Chelsea look to complete cup double

LONDON (Reuters) - Manchester United may boast the biggest following, Liverpool the best European credentials and Arsenal the premier league title, but in English football at the moment Chelsea have the glamour.

The London club, who meet VfB Stuttgart in the European Cup Winners' Cup final, in Stockholm tomorrow, have won only one major European honor and that was 27 years ago when they captured the Cup Winners' Cup from Real Madrid after a replay in Athens.

Their sole league title was back in 1955 and they have won the FA Cup only twice - in 1970 and last year.

Compared with the giants of the English game their record is poor and they have consistently lived up to a reputation for promising much and delivering little.

But fortunes changed in the mid-1990s when Glenn Hoddle, now England coach, had a brief spell in charge and signed Ruud Gullit, the inspirational former European Footballer of the Year, to finish his playing days at Stamford Bridge.

The Dutchman's technical skill and prowess boosted Chelsea's midfield and their reputation and when Hoddle left for the England job in

1996, he was put in charge as player-manager.

The Gullit name lured a raft of international talent to club, including Italians Gianluca Vialli, Gianfranco Zola and Roberto Di Matteo, France fullback Frank Leboeuf and England defender Graeme Le Saux. His eclectic side ended the club's honors drought in his first year in charge, winning the FA Cup with the sort of entertaining flair which wrong-footed opponents and dazzled fans.

But Gullit's policy of revolving the squad upset some team members and his high profile appeared to disconcert the club's hierarchy.

In February this year, with Chelsea second in the league, in the semi-finals of the league cup and the quarter-finals of the Cup Winners' Cup Gullit was sacked, ostensibly after a dispute over a new contract.

Chelsea's blunt-spoken chairman Ken Bates accused the supercool Dutchman, whose advertising contracts, television punditry and recently launched line in menswear had brought fashion back to football, of spending too little time training and running the squad.

Summed fans wept outside the ground when they heard the news but were mollified with the

announcement that Vialli, a former international who had won practically everything with former clubs Juventus and Sampdoria was to be put in charge.

Softer spoken, with a more serious demeanor and less hair, Vialli is nevertheless a worthy successor to Gullit in the glamor stakes. He wears snappy suits and shades, lives in the most fashionable part of London and frequents, albeit discreetly, the capital's trendiest restaurants.

Though their league form dipped and they finished fourth, Chelsea went on to win the League Cup and are on the verge of a double cup success by winning in Stockholm. Whether they win or lose in Stockholm they will be playing in Europe next season too.

Fans, who include several rock stars, actors - Richard Attenborough in life vice-president - and high-profile politicians, can hardly believe the transformation in the club's fortunes.

Home-grown captain Dennis Wise, who for years was irritated with commentators harking back to the brief good old days of the Chelsea team of the late 1960s and early 70s with Peter Osgood, Bobby Tambling, John Hollins and Peter Bonetti - now believes the club are firmly

among the front runners rather than the also-rans. "That era has gone now. We've proved we're good enough."

We've carried on from last year by winning a trophy. There will be talk about the Chelsea team of the 90s," he said.

But the side that can play some of the most scintillating and entertaining football in the country also continue to live up to a reputation for inconsistency and can produce execrable performances for no apparent reason.

During the season they have lost to premier league strugglers Southampton, Bolton, Everton and Newcastle as well as failing to rise to the occasion against Arsenal, Blackburn and Manchester United, Coventry and West Ham.

Vialli, aiming like Gullit for a place in the European Cup, regularly berates his players for losing concentration and "getting sloppy".

But their Cup runs have brought out the best in the side and Chelsea, whose top flight aspirations have led to a complete remodelling of their ground which now boasts trendy restaurants and a hotel, believe they are due a piece of European silverware to grace Bates's newly-refurbished headquarters.

SPORTS

in brief

Wenger named premier league manager of year

LONDON (Reuters) - Frenchman Arsene Wenger was named the English premier league's manager of the year yesterday.

Wenger became the first non-British manager to win the English title when he steered Arsenal to the league championship earlier this month. He has also led the Londoners to the FA Cup final, where they will face Newcastle United this Saturday.

Liverpool's 18-year-old striker Michael Owen was named the premier league player of the year after firing 18 goals this season and breaking into the England team.

Jansen resigns as Celtic coach

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Wim Jansen resigned yesterday as Celtic coach just two days after leading the Scottish club to their first league title in 10 years.

The former Dutch international was in Portugal with his players when he invoked a get-out clause a year into his three-year contract. Jansen, former coach of Feyenoord and the Saudi Arabian national team, had alerted supporters six weeks ago that he was considering his future at Celtic and would make a decision at the end of the season.

He was known to be deeply unhappy with the management structure and at being unable to spend the type of money needed to attract top class players to Celtic.

Benson and Hedges Cup quarter-final draw

LONDON (Reuters) - Draw for the quarter-finals of English county cricket's Benson and Hedges Cup 50 overs competition made at Lord's today: Surrey v Lancashire, Leicestershire v Kent, Yorkshire v Durham, Middlesex v Essex. Matches to be played on May 27.

Tricac voted to head Romanian Olympic Committee

BUCHAREST (Reuters) - Former tennis star Ion Tricac was appointed chairman of the Romanian Olympic Committee yesterday. Tricac won 62 votes of the 104-member board compared with 24 for former fencing champion Ana Pascu and 10 for national gymnastics federation head Nicolae Vieri.

Tricac was a prominent tennis player in the 1970s, achieving his most noted successes as Ilie Nastase's doubles partner. He later became a successful manager based in Germany, guiding the fortunes of Boris Becker.

Tricac replaces Lia Manoliu, a former Olympic champion discus thrower, who died after brain surgery in January.

Former Giant Ray Noble dies

NEW YORK (AP) - Ray Noble, a utility player with the New York Giants in the 1950s, has died at the age of 79.

Born Miguel Rafael Noble in Central Hatillo, Cuba, Noble spent parts of three seasons with the Giants as a catcher and outfielder from 1951-53. He was on the Giant team which beat Brooklyn in a dramatic three-game playoff for the pennant in 1951 and appeared in the World Series that year.

In three seasons with the Giants, Noble hit .218 in 107 games with nine home runs and 40 RBI. He also played for the Havana Sugar Kings in the old Negro League.

Bradman sculpture up for auction

SYDNEY (AP) - Officials from the famous cricket grounds at Lord's in England and Eden Gardens in India are expected to compete with Adelaide to claim a life-size sculpture of Australian Sir Donald Bradman.

The sculpture, by Mitch Mitchell, will go under the hammer today as part of a major auction of cricket memorabilia.

Sculptor Mitchell started the project when he hitchhiked from Melbourne to Bradman's home in Adelaide and knocked on the door.

Mitchell said he hoped the bronze sculpture would be bought by Adelaide City Council.

The sculpture is expected to fetch at least \$35,000.

Auction house Christies will also offer a part of the ball used in the first official Ashes Test between Australia and England, played at the Oval in 1882. The part is set in an intricate piece of jewelry.

The bulk of the auction will be the Charlie Grinnell Collection, a wide range of memorabilia which belonged to the talented Australian leg spinner.

Stuttgart come through despite backroom battles

STUTTGART (Reuters) - Backroom battles have marred what could prove to be Stuttgart's finest season in Europe.

The German club, who meet Chelsea in the final of the European Cup Winners' Cup tomorrow, have never quite pulled it off in Europe reaching only one final - the UEFA Cup in 1989, where they lost to Diego Maradona's Napoli.

This season, however, they were tipped to reach the final and they carved a smooth path through some fairly ordinary opposition, beating Slavia Prague in the quarter-finals and Lokomotiv Moscow with a doughty 1-0 away win in the semi.

Laudrup condemns Rangers over transfer deal with Chelsea

GLASGOW (Reuters) - Brian Laudrup has condemned Glasgow Rangers' management just days before playing his last game at the club for trying to claim compensation over his move to Chelsea.

The Danish international, who has agreed to join the English premier league team on July 1 as a free agent, is furious Rangers' chairman David Murray is considering court action to obtain a fee for him.

Laudrup is set to finish his four-year stay at Rangers by playing against Hearts in the Scottish Cup final on Saturday but accused the Ibrox club of "going behind my back".

He insisted he might consider pulling out of the deal with Chelsea unless the matter is resolved amicably.

"I am very disappointed that Rangers are looking for compensation for me," said the winger. "If they continue to press for it, I might have to have a re-think." By that, Laudrup meant moving to Europe, which would ensure Rangers would not get any money for him.

The row between Rangers and Chelsea has erupted because British clubs have been using a loophole in the Bosman ruling by fixing a transfer fee for any out-of-contract player who switches clubs within the United Kingdom.

The European Union (EU) ordered that this had to cease at the end of this season and the Scottish League said on Monday that, as of May 1, they now have a statute waiving the right to compensation for out-of-contract players.

Rangers are arguing that Laudrup signed a pre-contract deal with Chelsea before the new domestic law was in place and, therefore, they claim they are entitled to a cash settlement.

But Laudrup feels Murray has reneged on a gentlemen's agreement after the Dane agreed last northern summer to stay at Rangers rather than join Ajax.

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Wakefield pitches a gem for Red Sox

KANSAS CITY (AP) — Boston Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield nursed mixed feelings after pitching one of the best games of his career. He was more than happy with his performance after a 3-1 victory over the Kansas City Royals, Boston's third consecutive success. But he was disappointed after missing out on what would have been the first no-hitter in 25 years by a knuckleballer (Phil Niekro, Atlanta Braves, 1975).

Wakefield (4-1), who twice carried no-hitters into the eighth inning in 1995, faced the minimum 18 batters through six innings, allowing one baserunner on a fifth-inning walk to Jeff Conine, who was erased on a double play.

The right-hander retired Ernie Young and Jose Offerman to open the seventh and went to 0-1 on Shane Mack, who slapped a hard single in front of center fielder Damon Buford to end the no-hit bid and a 1-for-22 slump.

"I felt a little let down. I really wanted it bad," Wakefield said.

"I was hoping it was hit hard enough that Damon could make the play." "It was the only one (pitch) that flattened out the whole day," said catcher Jason Varitek, who hit his first major league homer in the fifth inning, a two-run shot. "He threw 90 percent knucklers."

Wakefield retired the next six hitters and was one out from a one-hitter. But speedy pinch-hitter Johnny Damon bunted for a hit, took second on defensive indifference, and scored when third baseman John Valentin misplayed Offerman's grounder.

Tom "Flash" Gordon came on and induced Mack to bounce out to second for his major league-leading 14th save in 15 opportunities. Wakefield struck out five in winning his fourth straight start with the two-hitter.

"We were able to win and that's satisfying," Wakefield said.

Yankees 7, Twins 0

In Minneapolis, Ramiro Mendoza pitched a five-hitter for the first complete game of his major league career, and the New York Yankees won for the 23rd time in 26 games, defeating the Minnesota Twins 7-0 Sunday.

Tino Martinez and Scott Brosius each homered, and Derek Jeter had three of the Yankees' 16 hits.

Mendoza (12-1) walked none and struck out two, getting help from four double plays.

Eric Milton (2-4), the Twins' key acquisition in the offseason trade that sent Chuck Knoblauch to the Yankees, gave up four runs and nine hits in five innings.

Devil Rays 4, Orioles 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Quinton McCracken's first home run of the season, an eighth-inning drive off Alan Mills (0-1), broke a 3-3 tie in the eighth. Tampa Bay stopped an eight-game home losing



Montreal's Rondell White drives safely back to first under the tag of Colorado's Todd Helton on the pick-off attempt by Rockies pitcher Darryl Kile. (Reuters)

streak and won for just the fourth time in 18 games.

Esteban Yan (3-0) pitched two scoreless innings, and Roberto Hernandez pitched a perfect ninth for his third save in six chances. Baltimore is 8-15 since a 10-2 start.

White Sox 4, Athletics 3

In Oakland, California, Blake Stein shut down Chicago in his major league debut, but shortstop Kurt Abbott made three errors in the seventh as Chicago overcame a 2-1 deficit.

Abbott booted a grounder, then dropped a popup as the tying run scored. After Ray Durham's RBI groundout, Abbott threw wildly on another grounder, and Frank Thomas followed with an RBI single.

Oakland had five errors, and no White Sox runs were earned.

The A's outpitch Chicago 12-3 but stranded 15 runners.

Stein allowed four runs and three hits in seven innings and struck out eight, a record for an Oakland pitcher making his debut.

Jamie Navarro (3-3) won and Bill Simas got three outs for his first save, striking out Abbott to end the game with a runner on second.

Mariners 3, Blue Jays 1

In Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. hit his major league-leading 15th home run and Jeff Fassero got key relief help from Mike Timlin as the Seattle Mariners beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W L Pct. GB

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Montreal 13 22 .371 12

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Central Division

Houston 22 13 .629 -

Minnesota 19 15 .559 2 1/2

Chicago 19 17 .528 3 1/2

Cincinnati 18 18 .500 4 1/2

St. Louis 17 18 .486 4 1/2

Pittsburgh 16 20 .444 6 1/2

West Division

San Diego 23 13 .639 -

San Francisco 20 17 .541 3 1/2

Los Angeles 18 18 .500 5

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AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W L Pct. GB

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Boston 24 17 .588 7

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Toronto 16 20 .444 10 1/2

Tampa Bay 14 20 .412 11 1/2

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Chicago 14 20 .412 3 1/2

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St. Louis 10 22 .313 8 1/2

West Division

San Diego 22 13 .629 -

San Francisco 19 16 .543 3

Seattle 18 18 .500 4 1/2

Oakland 15 20 .429 7

Fassero (4-1) took a 2-0 lead into the eighth inning, but the Blue Jays loaded the bases with no outs on two hits and a walk.

Fassero struck out Shawn Green, then Timlin took over and got Jose Canseco to ground into a double play. Fassero allowed four hits in 7 1-3 innings and struck out seven.

Bobby Ayala pitched the ninth inning for his seventh save despite giving up a leadoff homer to Carlos Delgado.

Alex Rodriguez hit a two-run homer in the fifth. Griffey gave the Mariners an insurance run in the eighth with his homer off Dan Plesac.

Juan Guzman (1-5) lost to the Mariners for the first time in eight career decisions. He tied a career high with 11 strikeouts in 7 1-3 innings, and gave up four hits.

Rangers 5, Indians 3

In Arlington, Texas, John Burkett retired the first 20 batters, pitching Texas past Cleveland.

Manny Ramirez doubled with two outs in the seventh inning to break up Burkett's perfect game.

Burkett ran into trouble in the ninth, loading the bases with no outs before being relieved by John Wetteland. Wetteland gave up a two-run single to Manny Ramirez and a sacrifice fly to Jim Thome before recording his ninth save.

Burkett (3-4), who came into the game with an 8.03 ERA, allowed

three runs, four hits and one walk in eight-plus innings, striking out five.

Juan Gonzalez had an RBI double in the fifth inning off Indians starter Jarret Wright (1-3), giving him a major league-leading 46.

Angels 4, Tigers 2

In Anaheim, California, Ken Hill pitched 6 2-3 strong innings to tie for the AL lead with his sixth win. Cecil Fielder's two-run double keyed a three-run fifth as the Angels closed out a 4-5 homestand with only their second win in seven games.

Hill (6-1) gave up two runs on eight hits and two walks, striking out seven to tie the Texas Rangers and Oakland's Kenny Rogers for the AL lead in wins.

Troy Percival pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Tim Worrell (2-4) took a two-hitter into the fifth and had two outs before Jim Edmonds singled to drive in the Angels' first run. Fielder then doubled into the left-field corner to make it 3-0.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Braves 8, Padres 5

In Atlanta, Javy Lopez, Andres Galarraga, Andrew Jones and Ryan Klesko all homered as the Atlanta Braves tied a franchise record by connecting in their 22nd straight game, beating the San Diego Padres 8-5 Sunday.

The Braves, who overcame a 3-0 deficit, matched the club mark set in

1953. The National League record is 24 by the 1953 Brooklyn Dodgers, and the major league mark is 25 by the 1941 New York Yankees and the 1994 Detroit Tigers.

Lopez put the Braves ahead 6-5 in the sixth when he homered off Donnie Wall (0-1).

Mike Cather (2-1) won, and Kerry Lichtenberg worked the ninth for his fifth save.

Giants 3, Cubs 0

At Chicago, Orel Hershiser (1-3) won his first game in eight starts for San Francisco, giving up two hits and striking out six in eight innings. It was his first NL victory since Aug. 7, 1994, for Los Angeles.

Jeff Kent hit a two-run double in a three-run ninth for the Giants, who won for the sixth time in eight games.

Robb Nen pitched the ninth for his sixth save, completing the combined three-hitter. Mark Clark (2-5) lost his fifth straight start, giving up four hits in 8 1-3 innings and striking out eight.

Dodgers 4, Marlins 2

At Miami, Raul Mondesi homered and saved three runs with his glove in support of Ismael Valdes (3-4), who allowed both runs and five hits in eight innings.

Valdes survived consecutive homers by Gary Sheffield and Derek Lee in the sixth. Scott Radinsky pitched a 1-2-3 ninth for his seventh save.

Woodard 5, Braves 0

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Astros 7, Brewers 1

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Sabres lead Canadiens 2-0

Red Wings tied 1-1 with Blues

BUFFALO, New York (AP) — Matthew Barnaby recorded his first career hat trick to lead the surging Buffalo Sabres to a 6-3 victory over the Montreal Canadiens on Sunday.

Barnaby, who also had an assist along with his three goals, broke a 3-3 tie with a goal late in the second period and broke the game open 14 seconds into the third to give the Sabres a 2-0 lead in the best-of-7 Eastern Conference semifinal series.

The Sabres have not had a 2-0 series lead in the second round of the playoffs since 1980, which also was the last time they reached the conference finals. Game 3 will be played tonight in Montreal.

The Sabres won their fifth straight playoff game going back to Game 3 against the Philadelphia Flyers in the first round.

Red Wings 6, Blues 1

At Detroit, the Detroit Red Wings rediscovered their "A" game just in time to hand the St. Louis Blues their first playoff loss and even their Western Conference series at one game apiece.

Martin Lapointe, Nicklas Lidstrom, Tomas Holmstrom, Steve Yzerman, Larry Murphy and Kirk Maltby scored for the defending Stanley Cup champions.

Terry Yutzy scored for the Blues, who swept the Los Angeles Kings in the first round and defeated Detroit 4-2 in the opener.

The best-of-7 semifinal series moves to St. Louis for games tonight and Thursday night, then returns to Detroit for Game 5 next Sunday.

Detroit outshot the Blues 34-25.

Rockies 5, Expos 3

At Montreal, Dante Bichette broke a 2-all tie in the eighth with his first homer in 149 at-bats since April 2, and Todd Helton homered twice.

Darryl Kile (5-3) won his fourth consecutive start, giving up two runs and four hits in eight innings. Jerry Dipoto finished for his seventh save, allowing a solo homer to Shane Andrews.

Phillies 7, Diamondbacks 4

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SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION

NEW JERUSALEM HILTON OPENS TODAY

Luxurious Hilton on King David Street is Jewel in the Crown



Reservations are now being taken for Hilton International's new hotel in Jerusalem, officially opening today. The eight-story, 385-room hotel offers a range of fine and informal dining, a grand ballroom

seating up to 500 people, a choice of meeting and conference rooms, an Executive Lounge, two Executive Floors and a full range of recreational facilities, including a heated outdoor swimming pool and a health club with a sauna, jacuzzi and steam room.

Located on King David Street in the heart of Jerusalem's historical Mamilla district, Hilton's new prestigious hotel is part of a significant redevelopment which will preserve and renovate the western entrance area to the old city and downtown Jerusalem. The new

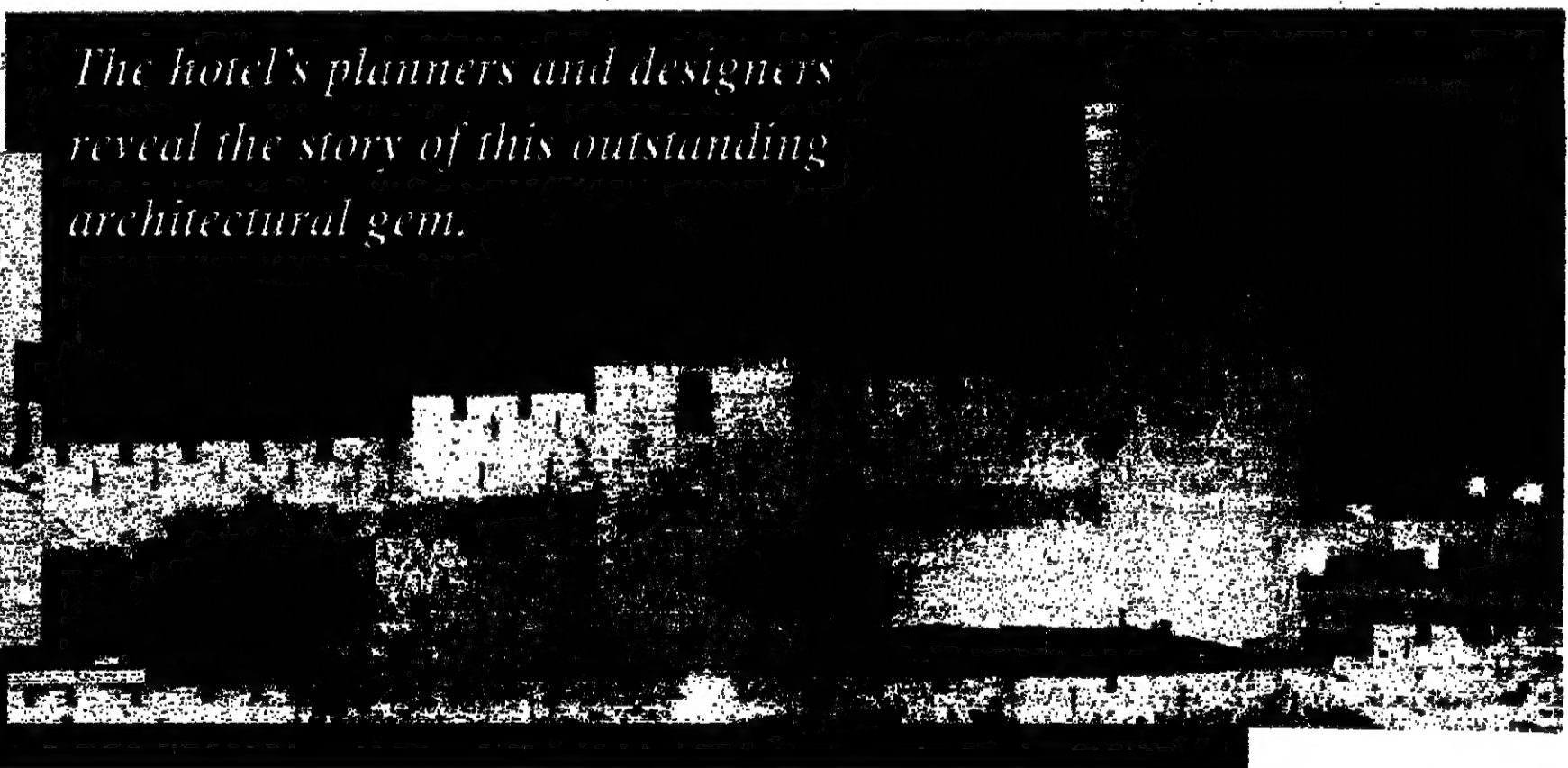
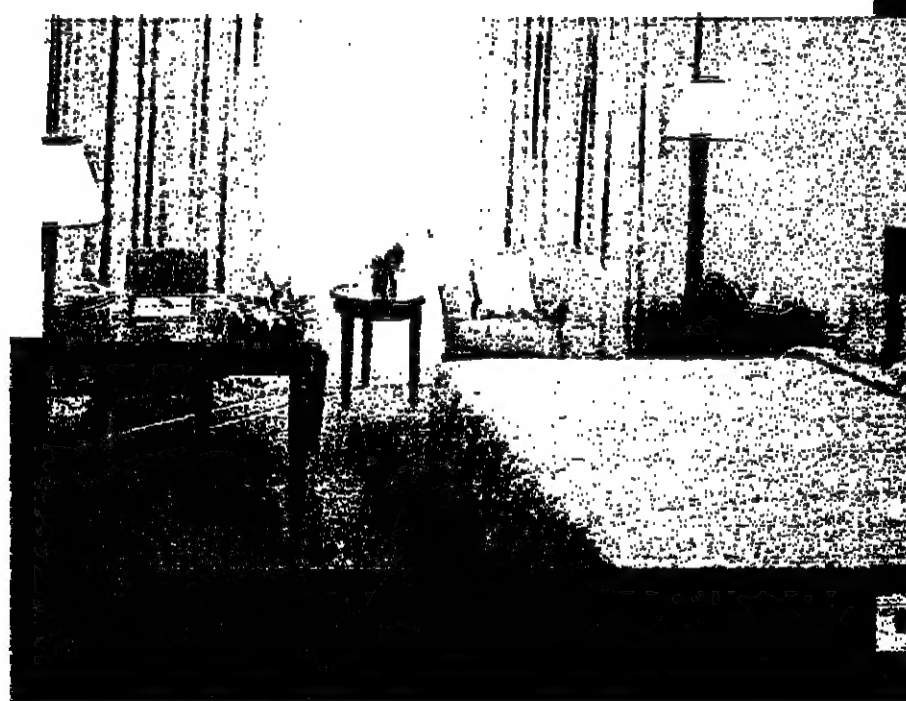
hotel overlooks the city's most historic sights such as the Old City Walls, the Tower of David and the Jaffa Gate. Hilton, the world's best known hotel brand, has over 400 hotels in 50 countries, including city-center hotels, hotel-casinos, resorts and airports.

Hilton is operated through a worldwide alliance between Hilton Hotels Corporation and Hilton International Co., a subsidiary of Ladbroke Group PLC. Both companies are recognized as leaders in the gaming and hospitality industries.

Reservations for the Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street can be made by calling Hilton Reservation Worldwide or the Jerusalem sales office at (02) 621-1111, or via the Internet at www.hilton.com, or through your local travel agent.

'All the Old City's a Stage'

The hotel's planners and designers reveal the story of this outstanding architectural gem.



Moshe Safdie, the world renowned Israeli architect, has brought his distinctive style to the new Hilton. According to Safdie, the new building is conceived in the spirit of the great opera houses of Europe: "Like La Scala in Milan or the Grand Opera in Paris, the eight-story hotel forms a great horseshoe, focusing upon the stage. The rooms and their balconies form the dress circle of boxes focusing upon the stage: the Old City of Jerusalem. The spectacular view of the Old City and beyond, the Golden Dome of the Rock and the Mount of Olives unfolds just a stone's throw away, basking in sunlight during the day and dramatically illuminated at night," explains Safdie.

On both sides of the horseshoe, two parallel wings protrude toward the Old City, housing rooms with oblique views. The wings' terraces face east, forming trellised roof gardens for the suites opening onto them.

Contained by the horseshoe and open toward the east is the "Orchestral Level", of this opera hall, a series of terraced courtyards open to the sky. Serving as a dining garden, the lobby lounge opens onto the upper terrace, and looks over the swimming pool terrace, which descends further as a series of waterfalls into an Andalucian garden, centered around a long, narrow reflecting pool.

Along King David Street, the entrance is defined by a grand arcade in the scale of the great ancient aqueducts: it separates the street from the entry courtyard - protected from the elements by a cantilevering glass canopy which fans out of the building.

The building fits harmoniously into its historic setting. Its walls are constructed from traditional roughly hewn golden Jerusalem limestones; its roofs and canopies are sheathed in pewter colored leaded copper. Inside the hotel, richly patterned stone floors, beechwood paneling and stencilled

'The hotel will provide a much-needed boost for the capital's economy'

says Alfred Akirov, Chairman of the Board
 Al-Rov (Israel) Ltd. and hotel owner.

Tourism is central to the economy of Israel, a country which harbors the holy places of the world's three major religions. Jerusalem has always been and will forever be a city desired to be visited by one and all. I believe that the new Jerusalem Hilton on King David street will provide a much-needed boost for the capital's economy. This magnificent hotel with the most superb landscape provides a combination of luxury, comfort and easy access to major business and culture centers. The adjacent Mamilla Commercial Center currently under construction and scheduled for opening in the year 2000, will bring the hotel even closer to the heart of Jerusalem's trade and business activities.

"I am proud to have the hotel inaugurated in the 50th anniversary of the State of Israel. Tourism is our most precious asset, and I hope that this new Hilton will serve as a bridge between people of any religion or nationality. I also hope that visitors from all over the world will have the opportunity to enjoy the hotel for generations to come."

Let me take this opportunity to thank Hilton International for joining us in this venture and also the architects, builders, designers and hundreds of workers who, for the past four years, spent days and nights in making this dream come true."



'We are delighted to add the Jerusalem Hilton to our portfolio'

says Peter George,
 Chairman of Hilton International



As chairman of Hilton International, I am delighted to be in Israel to celebrate the official opening of the magnificent Jerusalem Hilton. The hotel is in the heart of the capital, overlooking some of the great sights that make this historic city such a popular destination - such as the Old City Walls, the Tower of David and the Jaffa Gate," says George.

"We are delighted to add the Jerusalem Hilton to our portfolio and look forward to further growth within the country. Hilton International already operates two hotels in Israel and are therefore familiar with the warm welcome that this country extends to visitors."

"Together with the owners of the hotel, Al-Rov (Israel) Ltd., our aim has been to create a hotel that celebrates the culture and architecture of this great city, and I believe that we have achieved just that. Stunning exteriors, luxurious interior design and sophisticated service will ensure that hotel guests receive the hospitality that both Hilton and Israel are renowned for."

"This year Israel celebrates its 50th anniversary, and this great occasion - plus the rapidly approaching Millennium - will ensure that Jerusalem is set to welcome even more visitors from around the world. Hilton International looks forward to extending this welcome to its guests," he declares.

continued on next page

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Renowned French chef runs Hilton's dairy fish restaurant

For the first time in Israel a twin restaurant to a Paris *Michelin* Guide two-star restaurant was opened early this month! Renowned French chef Jacques le Divellec, who owns the famous Le Divellec restaurant in the center of Paris, opened a prestigious restaurant carrying his name at the new Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street. Le Divellec is awarded two Michelin stars, and considered one of France's most popular restaurants. In Jerusalem, the chef operates a kosher restaurant based on fish and dairy sauce dishes. His personal assistant and managing chef is Israeli Arik Attias.

Le Divellec was born in Paris in 1932. He inherited a love for fish and seafood



Michelin two-star French Chef, Jacques le Divellec (left) with Jerusalem Hilton Fine Dining Room Chef Arik Attias.



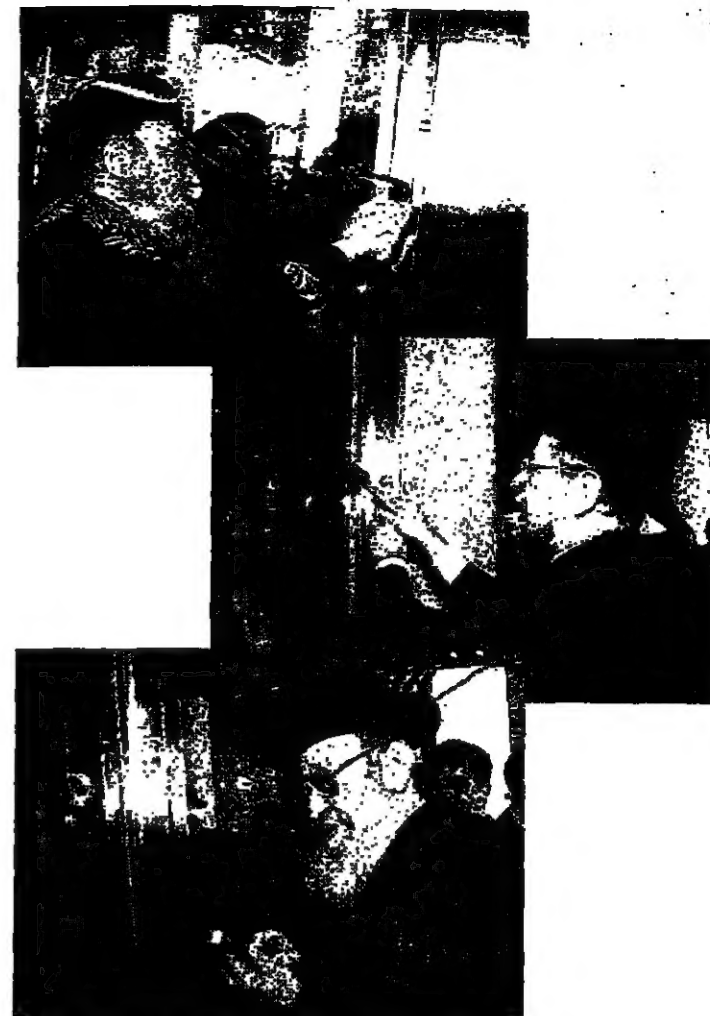
from his grandmother - who was a talented cook - and his father, a sailor and fisherman. Following military service in the National Marines, le Divellec studied and developed his culinary experience under the influence of Raymond Olivier, founder of the Cuisine Moderne. In 1958 he purchased a small hotel in La Rochelle Port. His hotel restaurant "Le Yachtman" was soon awarded a Michelin star.

During the 70's, already famous throughout France, le Divellec also became an international gastronomic consultant, holding food festivals in hotels and restaurants in Geneva, Montreal, New Orleans, New York, Singapore, Tokyo, Tel Aviv, Rabat, Oslo and Mauritius.

Regular diners at Le Divellec include: President Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, Charles Aznavour, Isabelle Adjani, Alan Delon, Jean-Paul Belmondo, Catherine Deneuve. The late President Francois Mitterrand and singer Edith Piaf were also regular diners. Le Divellec owns several honorary titles like the Knight of the Rural Merit and the Knight of the Honor Legion. He serves as a professional consultant to hotel chains and the French Export Institute, and has already published five cookbooks.

The restaurant at the Jerusalem Hilton is open from Sunday to Thursday from 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. For reservations please call: (02) 621-2020.

Already in Action



Following an investment of US\$ 100 million, the new Jerusalem Hilton had a preliminary opening on January 1, 1998. The opening was marked by an intimate ceremony with (top to bottom): Israel's Chief Rabbis, Ellyahu Bakshi Doron - Sephardi Chief Rabbi, Israel Meir Lau - Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, and Shalom Mahash - Chief Rabbi of Jerusalem, who were among the dignitaries chosen to affix the mezuzot on the hotel's majestic entrance doors.



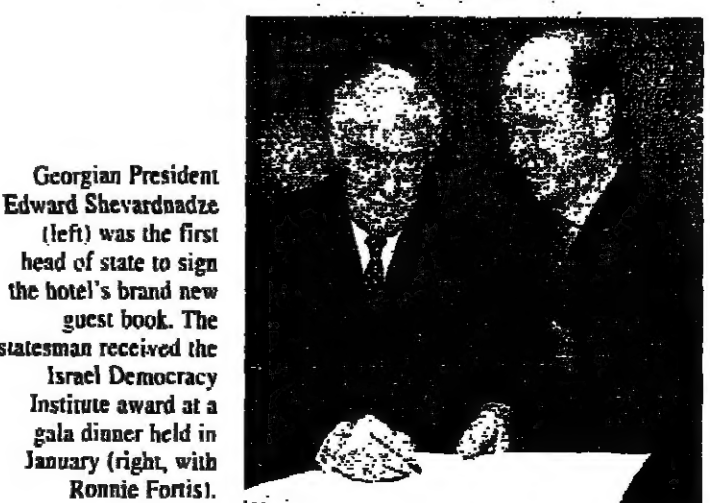
Ehud Olmert (left), Mayor of Jerusalem, honored the Hilton, by affixing a Mezuzah. Hotel General Manager, Ronnie Fortis congratulated him, thanking him also for his kind words.



It was a joyous moment for hotel owner Alfred Akirov (right), Chairman of the Board Al-Rov (Israel) Ltd., when he welcomed dignitaries, including Minister of Finance, Yacov Neeman.



Rico de Schepper (left), Tel Aviv Hilton's General Manager, congratulated hotel contractor Zecharia Drucker.



Georgian President Edward Shevardnadze (left) was the first head of state to sign the hotel's brand new guest book. The statesman received the Israel Democracy Institute award at a gala dinner held in January (right, with Ronnie Fortis).

Edited and compiled by Monty Verses
Designed by Miriam Abraham

'Israel - 7 Hiltons by the year 2000'

says Peter van der Vliet, Hilton International Vice President - Mediterranean

By the year 2000, Hilton International will operate seven hotels in Israel with more than 2,500 rooms and employing over 1,800 workers, says Peter van der Vliet, Hilton International Vice President - Mediterranean. "Local and foreign entrepreneurs are involved in four new projects throughout the country, investing in excess of US\$ 350 million in addition to the already operating hotels," he says.

"Israel places an important role for Hilton in the Mediterranean," says van der Vliet, who was General Manager of the Tel Aviv Hilton and the division director for Israel in the 80's. He is very proud to elaborate on Hilton's expansion in the country:

The TEL AVIV HILTON, a deluxe property with 582 rooms and suites. Inaugurated in 1965, it is one of the company's flagship hotels in the Middle East. US\$ 70 million are currently being invested in total renovation, while most of the rooms and suites have already been completely refurbished.

In January 1997, the 257-room BEER SHEVA HILTON was inaugurated. The hotel caters to businessmen and leisure tourists alike.

A 450-room EILAT QUEEN OF SHEBA HILTON in Israel's No. 1 resort city, is scheduled to open in 1999, with a US\$ 100 million investment. The hotel will also feature a 600 square-meter ballroom, a 5,500 square-meter mall, six restaurants, a health club and a swimming pool.

Planned for completion in 2000, the DAVID DOR HILTON will occupy a prime beach front location within the northern sector of the resort complex, which, at 495 meters below sea level, is the lowest point on earth. The hotel will feature 300 guest rooms and suites.

Also scheduled to open in 2000, the HAIFA HILTON will be built adjacent to the new Haifa Convention Center near the city's hi-tech industrial park. The 80 meter-high hotel will boast 300 guest rooms and suites.

"We felt that Jerusalem, being the capital of Israel, deserves not one hotel, but two," says van der Vliet. "Jerusalem will be the first city in Israel to experience a double presence of Hilton. In addition to the new hotel on King David Street, the JERUSALEM CITY HILTON, will also be built by 'Al-Rov (Israel) Ltd' on the west wing of the mall which is currently under construction in the 'Manilla project,' near the Old City. Opening is scheduled in 2000," he says.

"We are very confident in the long-term potential in Israel and our developments here underline our full commitment and belief in the prosperity of this exciting country. I would like to make a special mention about the inauguration of the JERUSALEM HILTON on King David Street - a magnificent project which contributes to enhancing this wonderful city's deluxe accommodations. A special thanks to all our partners and investors who have made these developments possible. We are proud to be the leading hotel chain in Israel," he concludes.



Peter van der Vliet

All the Old City's a Stage (cont'd)

wood ceilings create a fresh and contemporary character, yet strongly rooted in the traditions of Jerusalem and the Mediterranean.

Iti Kochavi, Senior Architect and Manager of the Hilton project in Jerusalem, views the hotel at both a macro and micro point, beginning with its place in the urban design of Jerusalem and ending with the smallest detail of the interior design. "It is inspired from both the majesty of the Old City Walls on its eastern side, and presents its formal facade of a free-standing arched massive stone wall in the modern city of Jerusalem on its western side. This unique position and design allows the hotel to bridge both east and west," explains Kochavi.

Don Sienkiewicz of Sienkiewicz & Partners Ltd. in the US, is the head interior designer of the Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street. According to Sienkiewicz, the interior design and the building architecture overlap. "Like Jerusalem, the eternal city that blends both old and new in harmony, the integration of architecture and interior design is aimed at making the hotel timeless. The ultimate goal is to create a sense of timelessness, not a feel - that which is currently popular - but something that will transcend time," says Sienkiewicz.

The interior architecture of the hotel is a unique assembly of columns, cloisters, arcades, pierced floors, grand staircases, multi-level vistas, semi-spherical sky lights and courtyards.

"Our goal is to offer interior finishes of the highest quality, using European Steam Booch, Italian and Israeli stones, nickel, silver, bronze and stainless steel. Fabrics are Swiss and much of the furniture was manufactured in Italy," he adds.

"The furniture selection blends with the architecture, yet is of interest on its own merit. The upholstery and carpets tend towards a 'natural look.' The use of cottons, linens and leather is extensive, creating a sense of harmony and a seamless integration between interiors and architecture," explains Sienkiewicz.

The new Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street is one of the most beautiful hotels in the Middle East. It caters to the upper market of tourists visiting Jerusalem, as well as business people from all over the world. And indeed, it takes only one look at the beauty and splendor of the hotel, its unequalled location, its breathtaking views, in the midst of the Manilla project, to realize that the new Jerusalem Hilton on King David Street is a jewel of design.



Architects Moshe Sarel and Iti Kochavi (inset). The hotel rooms and their balconies form the dress circle of boxes focusing upon the stage: the Old City.

